

Polish strike suspended in compromise deal

Leaders of Solidarity, Poland's independent trade union, last night suspended Tuesday's general strike but threatened possible strike action to back the call for independent farmers' unions, Government concessions on hours and union access to the media prompted the Soviet press to sharpen attacks on Solidarity, accusing it of undermining the state.

Union warning over farmers' demands

Warsaw, Feb 1.—Solidarity, the Polish free trade union movement, tonight suspended a one-hour national warning strike set for Tuesday but threatened to consider future strike action to support the cause of Rural Solidarity, the independent farmers' union.

The union's national consultative commission announced its decision after a day-long meeting to review last Saturday's agreement with the authorities over working norms and the union's access to the mass media.

The decision-making body formally ratified the government-union agreements. The union said Saturday's compromise agreements did not fully live up to public expectation but it acknowledged them as "an initial step".

Tuesday's warning strike had originally been called to back a campaign by Poland's three and a half million private farmers for the right to set up their own independent unions. The issue of Rural Solidarity was left unresolved after the Government-union talks, but a Government commission today began separate talks with the farmers in what appeared to be a breakthrough.

The official news agency PAF reported that the Supreme Court would give its ruling on the legalization of the Rural Solidarity within 10 days.

"We do not feel that a strike (on Tuesday) would be purposeful, considering that the talks between the Government and the farmers have not under way", Mr Karol Modzelewski, Solidarity's chief spokesman, told a news conference.

But Mr Modzelewski said a general strike could be called if the farmers' dispute is not resolved.

Mr Lech Walesa, Solidarity's leader, in keeping with Government pledges to give his union access to the mass media,

confirmed the threat of a general strike.

"We continue to have this weapon, and will not hesitate to use it if there is an attack on us or the farmers", Mr Walesa stated.

The 50-member consultative commission had come under some pressure today to withhold ratification of the new accord, but when a resolution was adopted there were only six votes against.

Mr Janusz Onyszkiewicz, another Solidarity spokesman, said the wave of strikes and work boycotts mounted by Solidarity in the past two weeks had persuaded the Government to soften its stand on the question of free Saturdays and the mass media.

"But it was not a total victory. It was a compromise. We met the Government halfway", he said.

Solidarity, which has demanded the immediate introduction of a five-day working week, agreed to accept one working Saturday a month. The Government had ordered two working Saturdays a month.

The resolution said Solidarity would continue to struggle for the 40-hour week, but would appeal to all Poles to put in one eight-hour working Saturday because of the country's dire economic situation.

The resolution also stated that Solidarity demanded full information on the state of the national economy and on the proposed economic reform, as well as public control of fiscal policy.

The question of a six-day-old general strike in the southern province of Bielsko Biala was raised during the press conference, and Mr Onyszkiewicz said the commission had no control over local disputes.

"We can appeal for local strikes to stop, but we cannot order them", he said.

Solidarity has sent a delegation to Bielsko Biala asking the strikers to return to work.

Russia cites CIA 'plots' in reply to Washington

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Feb 1

The Russians hit back sharply this weekend at President Reagan's accusation that they were encouraging international terrorism, describing the White House criticism as a new round in America's unbridled slander campaign against the Soviet Union.

An official statement by Tass said the contention that Moscow was involved in terrorism was absurd and had clearly been made in give fresh impetus to the anti-Soviet psychosis being fanned in America.

"Naturally no evidence to support these inventions is given because there is no such evidence in existence. Terrorism as a means of attaining political aims is deeply alien to the Soviet Union."

Tass said the real centre controlling international terrorism was the American Central Intelligence Agency, an organization of "terror, subversion and provocation". It added that American leaders had several times called for the CIA to be given a free hand abroad, which actually amounted to elevating terrorism to the rank of state policy.

The Tass statement gave in evidence a detailed list of plots and assassinations carried out by the CIA round the world, citing the attempts on the lives of President Castro of Cuba, Patrice Lumumba, the former Congo Prime Minister, General Rene Schneider in Chile, the overthrow of the Mossadek Government in Iran and Kwame Nkrumah in Ghana, and the financing of South Africa of rebels in Angola.

Tass directly accused the CIA of perpetrating the "foul political murder" of Signor Aldo Moro, the former Italian Prime Minister, because he had become an "undesirable" to Washington.

Said the CIA was the only intelligence agency whose direct interference in Italian politics had been proved.

In El Salvador, American military support had helped reactionary forces conduct a "veritable war" against the working people, making ruthless terror the official policy.

In Afghanistan, the Americans were supporting "criminal bands" who committed terror and plunder and were frustrating the process of rebuilding the country.

The Tass statement accused American officials of using terrorism at home for political aims, killing undesirable politicians and suppressing dissidents. The news agency cited the assassinations of Martin Luther King, and participants in the anti-war movement.

At the same time the authorities were concealing in attacks on foreign diplomats and diplomatic missions at the United Nations.

"One has only to look at the facts to see that the United States is the main breeder, organizer and perpetrator of international terrorism", Tass concluded.

The Russians have clearly been startled by the suddenness and vehemence of the attacks on them by the new President and by Mr Alexander Haig, his Secretary of State, which they attribute to the Administration's policy to find a new anti-Soviet policy to replace the discredited Carter campaign.



Winter sun at the meridian: Cutty Sark silhouetted against the Greenwich sky yesterday.

Mrs Williams decides this week on NEC seat

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

Mrs Shirley Williams, a leading member of the new Council for Social Democracy, will decide this week whether to resign from the national executive of the Labour Party where she has been under attack for seeming to be engaged in the formation of a new centre party.

Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, will be seeing Mrs Williams, a former minister, today, to try to persuade her to remain with the party. Leaders of her union, the Association of Professional, Execu-

tive, Clerical and Computer Staff, appealed to her over the weekend to "stay and fight" with the party for the changes in policy and organization that she wants.

There is no sign, so far, that any other Labour backbencher is ready to follow the example of Dr David Owen, the former Foreign Secretary, who announced on Friday that he will not be standing as a Labour candidate at the next election, though he will remain as Labour MP for Plymouth, Devonport, for the duration of the present Parliament.

Another leading member of the dissident group, Mr William Rodgers, MP for Teesside, Stockton, has resigned from the Shadow Cabinet, but he stays on as a Labour MP and is delaying for a few weeks any announcement he may have to make about his future.

In a speech to miners' workers in Gateshead on Saturday, however, he gave a clear indication that his disillusionment with the party is not likely to be dispelled unless the idea of having an electoral college to elect the party leader is abandoned.

the proportions are trifling matter", he said. "It is wrong that trade union block votes should determine who should be the Prime Minister."

In a reference to Mrs Williams' resignation, Mr Wedgwood Benn said: "I do not think it is moral for someone to sit in the highest echelons of one party in order to get enough time to prepare another party."

He was repeating an accusation that he made directly to Mrs Williams at the party executive meeting last Wednesday, and it is a point that must have occurred to her.

Continued on page 2, col 7

China cancels orders for modern plants

From Peter Hazelhurst
Tokyo, Feb 1

China seems to be cutting back on its modernization programme again and has suspended work on two large petrochemical plants in Nanjing and Shengli in the province of Shandong which were to be built by Japanese companies. As a result, the authorities in Peking are cancelling orders for equipment for the project.

A Japanese consortium, including C. Itoh and Company, the large trading house, and the Toyo Engineering Corporation has already begun to construct equipment for the plants.

This is the second big blow this year to Japanese businessmen who have won lucrative contracts in China since a more moderate regime assumed power in Peking.

The Japanese Government subsequently lodged a protest with the Chinese Embassy in Tokyo last month pointing out that Beijing's unilateral decision to cancel the orders will impair economic relations between the two countries and harm China's integrity.

The authorities in Peking had originally ordered a hot-strip mill from Mitsubishi Industries as an adjunct to the Shanghai Baoshan steel works, China's first modern integrated plant, which is being built under the guidance of the Nippon Steel Corporation.

Under the contract the mill was to be completed in 1984 and provide China with an annual capacity of four million tons of rolled steel.

A spokesman for the Mitsubishi Corporation says that company has already trained 170 Chinese engineers and technicians to handle the equipment in the proposed mill.

The spokesman confirmed reports that Mitsubishi Heavy Industries had already constructed part of the equipment for the mill at its plant in Hiroshima.

The latest decision by China to cancel orders for two petrochemical plants has more than alarmed Japanese businessmen and indicates that China has probably over-extended itself in modernizing its industry.

Savings bonds 'unfair to building societies'

Mr Richard Weir, secretary-general, of the Building Societies Association, yesterday accused the Government of unfair competition amounting to almost an abuse of power in the battle to attract personal savings.

By declaring that it would raise the money it needed by hook or by crook, the Government was speaking with the voice of the monopolist, he said.

If its rivalry with the societies continued, higher mortgage rates were the only possible outcome.

The government decision to raise large sums from personal savers would "reverberate through every building society decision on interest rates and mortgage rates for some time to come", he said. The societies did not object to fair competition from the banks; national savings or anyone else, but this was not fair competition.

"I do not think we can complain about the Government being in the personal savings business. It would be foolish to deny they have a right to be in the sector, or competing with the building societies for a part of the market", he conceded.

But index-linked bonds offered by the Government, which had responsibility for the inflation rate, made it judge and jury on savings rates.

Mr Robert Audley, Conservative MP for Chichester and Lymington, said yesterday: "Mr Weir's statement represents the typical whining we have come to expect from leaders of the Building Societies Association to excuse their own commercial inadequacies."

"Mr Weir probably has not noticed from his ivory tower that the inflation rate is falling rapidly. Perhaps he can explain to his bemused customers how such a situation can lead to mortgage repayment increases."

Moscow's attack on Solidarity sharpens

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Feb 1

The Russians gave a clear sign this weekend that they now regard Solidarity as a dangerous form of political opposition to the Polish Communist Party that is quickly leading the country to economic chaos and political destabilization.

Over the past few days the tone of Soviet reporting on the Polish crisis has changed significantly. Instead of accusing Solidarity of harbouring anti-communists within its ranks, the Russians are now accusing the union itself and its leaders of trying to undermine the Polish state.

A Tass report from Warsaw today said Solidarity was now putting forward political demands, such as the formation of a rural branch of the union. This would split the peasant movement, interfere with food supplies to the towns and worsen the already serious economic crisis in the country.

Indeed, the Soviet press had not minced words over the weekend in describing the general situation in Poland as extremely grave. The Russians' alarm can only have been increased by Solidarity's partial victory in obtaining concessions from the Government on Saturday working and an agreement to allow the union to produce a weekly newspaper and present a weekly television programme.

This will be seen here as a provocative challenge to the Communist Party's monopoly of power, and further evidence that one concession only leads to further demands which eventually destroy the party's authority altogether.

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President Reagan: 'New anti-Soviet campaign'

Budget move to ease industry's taxation burden

The Government is considering a fundamental switch in taxation from the industrial sector towards the financial sector, though whether there will be a "windfall" tax on clearing banks' profits introduced in next month's Budget, is still in doubt. The Prime Minister is known to be critical of the part played by the banks in expanding the money supply. It is also thought possible that the Chancellor will cut interest rates in the Budget.

Bomb warning to shops by Scotland Yard

While experts are examining four bombs left in a west London store, Scotland Yard warned shop security staff and the public to be alert for incendiary devices. The bombs discovered in a store on Saturday are similar to those used by the Provisional IRA.

Europe MPs call for Pretoria oil embargo

Brussels MPs examining South Africa's oil imports have accused European and American companies of playing a key role in helping Pretoria to maintain its supplies despite an embargo operated by most oil exporting countries.

Iran confrontation

President Bani-Sadr of Iran appears to have spurned any compromise with the ruling Islamic Republican Party. He said the party's aims were "to change Iran into a graveyard".

Bringing seamen home

Striking seamen stranded in ports all over the world are to be brought home with the aid of cash sought by their leaders from more than a hundred unions.

Onslaught on public sector pay curb

The government's attempt to impose a 6 per cent cap limit on public sector pay rises will come under pressure this week from leaders of the water workers, hospital manual staff, civil servants and power station workers.

"Times" negotiations: Printing union leaders enter talks today with an estimate of a fifty-fifty chance of success. Keyboard Instruments: A two-page Special Report on the market in Britain for pianos and early instruments. 12-13

Telecommunications in the Arab World: A three-page Special Report on the impact of modern electronics on a traditional way of life. 17-19

Classified advertisements: Personal, pages 28, 30; Appointments, 22, 28; Property, 27; Reader services guide, 26.

Leader page, 15

Letters: On the Nationality Bill, from Mr Anthony McSheehy, and others; Palestine, from Professor M. Mazawi, and Saikh Mubarak Ahmad.

Leading articles: Union block vote; Community Land Bill. Obituary, page 16. Mr William Gopallawa, Mr Karamchand Prasad, Mr. Aris, page 11.

William Mann celebrates the twentieth birthday of the singer Gerhard Hirsch, and reviews the rebirth of the Stravinsky Festival; Philip Howard on Johnsonian lexicography.

Features, pages 7, 14. Lord Chalfont on the new danger signals in the Middle East; For Hooley on a change of heart for the disabled.

Violent end to Bloody Sunday rally

Troops fired rubber bullets at stone-throwing demonstrators in Londonderry last night at the end of a demonstration to mark the ninth anniversary of Bloody Sunday.

Souths hijacked a bus and a bread delivery van and set them on fire and a fire was started in a baker's yard.

About 3,000 people marched from the Creggan Estate to the Bogside, where one of the speakers at a meeting was Mr Daniel Morrison, a Sinn Féin worker from Belfast. He told the crowd: "It is no crime nor is it morally wrong to plant a bomb or life a stone against those who suppress our people and country."

New political alliance: Mr Gerard Fitt and Mr Patrick Devlin, both former prominent members of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, which they believe no longer speaks for the working class, are forming a new "Socialist Alliance" (Craig Seton writes from Belfast).

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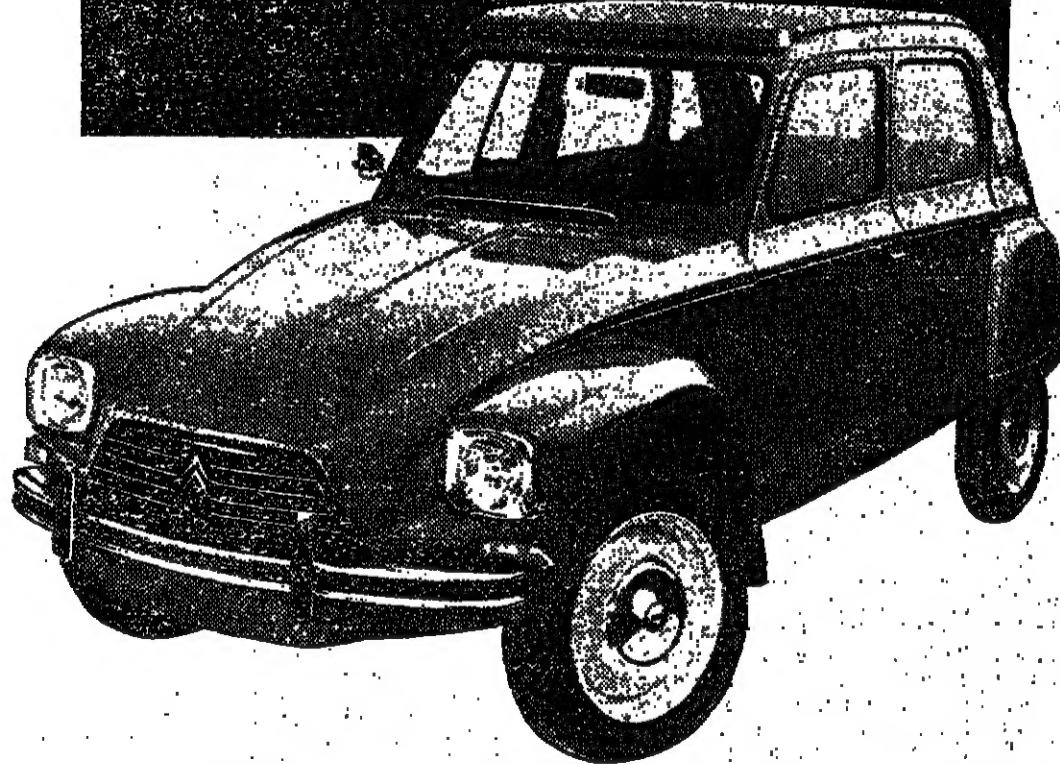
AWFUL NEWS FOR THE RENAULT 18.



5-door luxury hatchback. Self-levelling hydro-pneumatic suspension. High speed blow-out capability. New dashboard with satellite controls. Fully powered disc brakes on all four wheels. Most aerodynamic car in its class. Sorry, Renault.

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Now the cheapest 5-door hatchback on the British market. Air-cooled engine. 33 cu. ft. load capacity with rear seat folded down. Front disc brakes. Jersey cloth upholstery. Laminated windscreen. Excellent second-hand value. Sorry, Renault.

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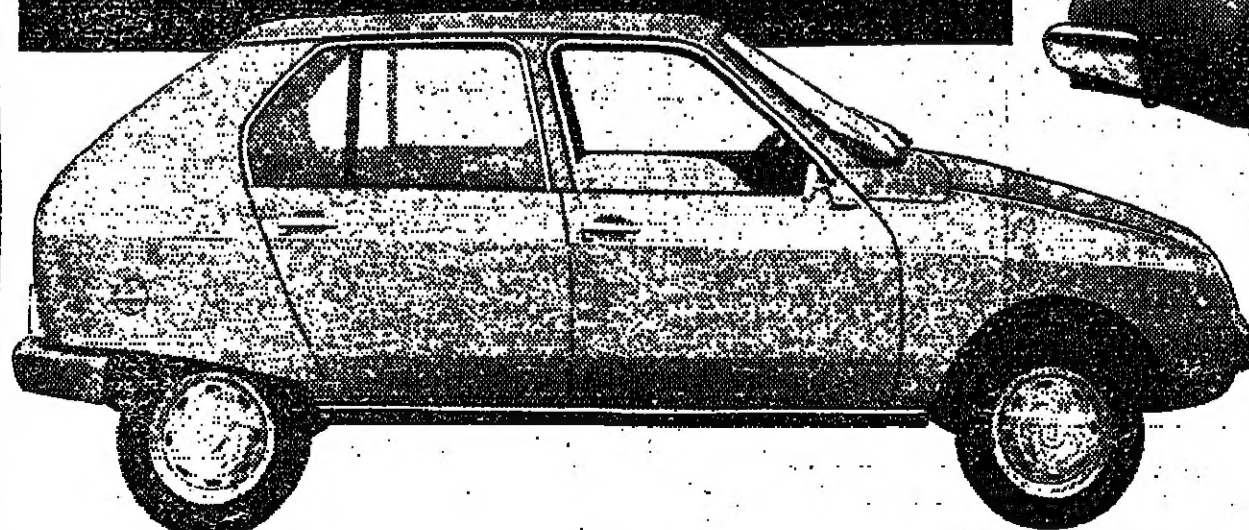
QUITE APPALLING NEWS FOR THE ROVER 2300.



Smooth 2-litre engine. Advanced aerodynamic design. Superb stability. Self-levelling hydro-pneumatic suspension. High speed blow-out capability. Effortless VariPower steering. 109 mph top speed. Luxurious specification. Sorry, Rover.

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HOME NEWS

Scotland Yard warns shop security staff to be wary of bombs

By Stewart Tendler
Crime Reporter

Explosives experts will today examine four incendiary devices, built into cassette tape boxes, which were found in a West London furniture store on Saturday. The devices are understood to be similar to those used by the Provisional IRA.

Some large West End stores were searched for explosives yesterday and Scotland Yard asked security staff to check shops before they opened today.

"There is always a possibility that more of these devices were planted. We are advising store security staff to be on the lookout today to make sure there is nothing out of place. We would also urge the public to be on the alert", Scotland Yard said.

The cassettes containing explosives were left in C and M Discount Furniture Warehouse in High Street, Southall, on Saturday. Shortly before closing time one was discovered by a customer who raised the alarm. The store was evacuated and another three explosive cassettes were found hidden in furniture.

One of the bombs is reported to have started a small fire but was made safe without anyone being injured.

The cassette devices are said to be complex and unlikely to be the work of amateurs. Incendiaries of that type have been used by the Provisional

IRA with some success in Northern Ireland during attacks on shopping centres.

They have also been used in Britain and a number were discovered in central London shops during the bombing campaign of 1976 to 1977.

If the Southall bombs were the work of the Provisionals it would mark their fourth attack in London since last December. The first was the bombing of a Territorial Army drill hall in Hammersmith; shortly before the New Year an attack was attempted on a gas works in east London and last month a building at RAF Uxbridge was devastated.

After that last attack the Provisionals announced they were opening a fresh offensive in mainland Britain, and Scotland Yard declared that an active service unit could be operating in the London area. Yesterday members of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist squad were examining the shop and were joined by Commander Michael Richards, who took over the investigation for the squad at the weekend.

So far no group has admitted planting the incendiaries and detectives are waiting for a pronouncement from explosives men at the Woolwich Arsenal. A clear reason for the attack has still to be found if it is the work of the Provisionals. If it is, there will be some surprise that they have chosen a target so far from the centre of London and with no apparent significance.

£7.71 council house average rent

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The average council house rent in England and Wales last year was £7.71 a week before rebates, according to statistics published today by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy.

The figure, based on returns for April, 1980, compares with £6.40 a week the year before, an increase of 20 per cent. The inflation rate over that period was 22 per cent.

For the coming year, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, has asked for rent increases of about £3.25.

At the time of the survey council house rents were lowest in the Yorkshire and Humberside region, where the average weekly rent was £6.63. In other regions the averages were £6.91 in the North, £6.92 in the East Midlands, £7.09 in the North-west, £7.33 in East Anglia, £7.83 in the West Midlands, £7.85 in Wales, £8.08 in the South-west, and £8.89 in the South-east.

The survey, which covered 86 per cent of council houses in England and Wales, shows that rents on older properties are lower than on new properties.

About one million households out of an estimated total of 5,243,000 council homes received rent rebates during a sample week in May, 1980, with an average rebate of £4.40. The previous year an estimated 960,000 households received rebates averaging £3.61.

Islington council has announced a rent increase of about £3 a week, or 33 per cent. Housing Rents Statistics in April 1980 (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, 1 Buckingham Place, London SW1E 6HS, £10).

Friendly farewell for Anna Ford

ITN said after the announcement on Saturday that Anna Ford would read her last news bulletin in March that her departure date was mutually and amicably agreed.

Miss Ford and Angela Rippon, who read her last BBC news on Friday, will present programmes on breakfast television when it starts in 1983.

Assault-case police team plea rejected

By Our Crime Reporter

Proposals for a detective force to investigate complaints of serious assault by policemen have, it is understood, been rejected by a Home Office working party which will report its findings in the next few weeks.

Instead of the special squad, the working party suggests, the existing system of inquiries could be strengthened by making it mandatory for chief constables to call in officers from another force to investigate a complaint.

At the same time a figure such as the Director of Public Prosecutions or the chairman of the Police Complaints Board could act as an independent overseer and act as a link between the investigators and the investigated.

The possibility of a special squad was put forward last year in the first triennial report of the Police Complaints Board. It was suggested the squad should have an independent head with some judicial experience.

The report came after several cases of death in police custody or during arrest had caused a controversy. Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, immediately announced the formation of the working party.

The working party included representatives of the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Police Superintendents' Association, the Police Federation, the Metropolitan Police, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Police Complaints Board and the Home Office.

The police representatives argued against the formation of the squad on practical grounds while the DPP felt that an independent head, possibly deciding on matters such as prosecutions, would clash with his role.

The signing of the practicalities showed that a squad, established regionally or nationally, might be expensive and under used. Questions arose over the type of officer seconded to work for it.

The working party has also found difficulty in establishing what would constitute a serious assault as opposed to one which did not require investigation.

Mr Whitelaw may consider passing the report on to the Police Advisory Board for evaluation before taking a decision.

Files disclose extent of spy's access to sensitive Far East intelligence

Burgess knew US analysis of Russian aid

By Peter Hennessy

"Any lingering impression that Guy Burgess, the British diplomat who spied for Russia as a low-ranking official of outrageous personal habits with little information of value to pass to Soviet intelligence is dispelled by recently declassified Foreign Office documents.

The papers, discovered at the Public Record Office last week, show that during his time as a grade 4 officer in the junior branch of the Diplomatic Service on the China and Philippines desk of the Foreign Office, which spanned the period between Mao Tse-tung's seizure of power in Peking in September, 1949, and the outbreak of the Korean War in June, 1950, Burgess saw reports from some of the most sensitive British and American intelligence organizations.

They included Whitehall's Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC), the War Office's M12 branch of military intelligence, and similar material from the Supreme Command Allied Powers, Tokyo, General Douglas MacArthur's headquarters in the Far East.

The Burgess files, contained in the records of the Foreign Office's Far Eastern Department for 1950 and released under the 30-year rule, were discovered by Mr Christopher Catherwood, a graduate student of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.

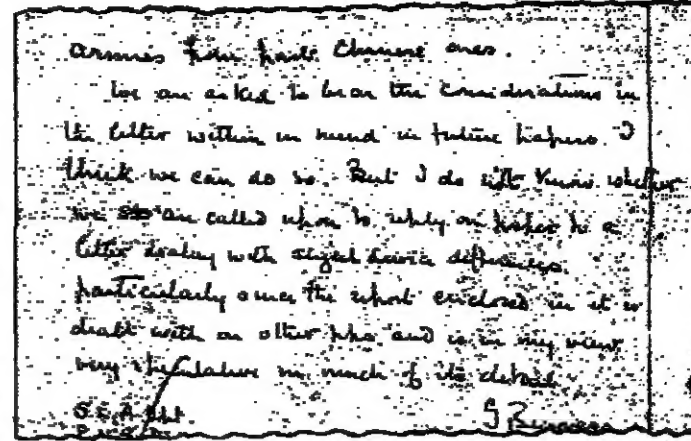
Of particular value to Mos-



Guy Burgess: Scornful.

cow would have been an M12 report of April 5, 1950, containing a summary of all information received concerning Russian assistance to the Chinese Communist forces" about which Burgess wrote a long minute, in his customary bright blue ink and neat hand, on April 29. In it Burgess makes clear his knowledge that "these papers contain the JIC view on the nature of Russian air assistance".

The secret M12 report goes into immense detail listing, by name in some cases, Soviet military personnel drafted into China after the revolution, the weapons they brought with them, including Spitfires and Mustangs acquired by the Soviet



A letter in Burgess's hand casts doubt on a report.

Union during the Second World War, the airfields they were constructing, and the training offered to Mao's forces.

The outer cover of the Foreign Office file in which the report is preserved describes it as "compiled by the War Office setting out the most important information available to them".

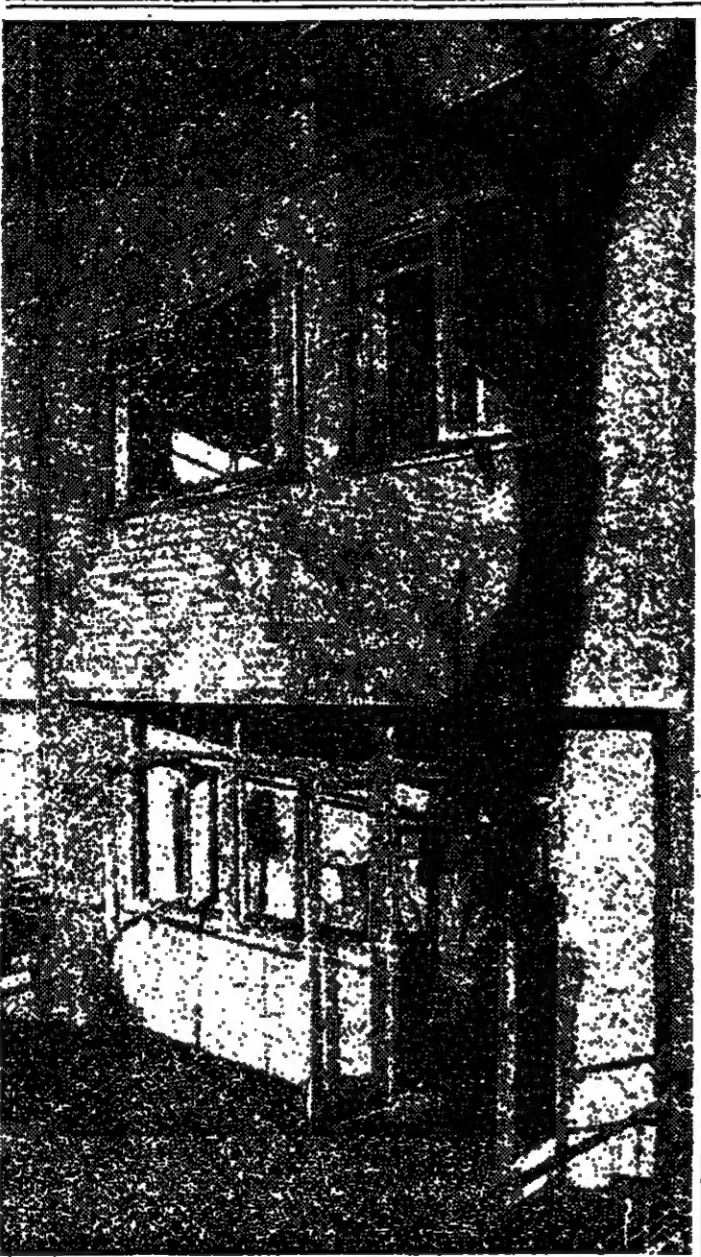
The view Burgess minuted for his Foreign Office employers, it is not his Soviet patron, argued that:

"On the one hand, if the Russians lend modern jet fighters it is thought likely that a Chinese air force would not be the recipients (ie, complete Soviet units would be lent), no post war planes of Soviet design have been known to be lent to any nation, and jets

have been seen over China. On the other hand, it seems quite possible that a Chinese Communist air force could be achieved fairly rapidly.

Burgess delighted in pouring scorn on the gullibility of United States intelligence in Tokyo in buying and believing fabricated reports, as Burgess saw them, from the Kuomintang forces of Chiang Kai-shek about what was happening in mainland China. However, he was not alone in the Foreign Office in discounting the value of such sources.

In May, 1951, Burgess defected to Russia with his friend and fellow spy, Donald Maclean. He died in Moscow in 1963.



The maisonette where three of a family of five died.

Father and daughters die in London maisonette fire

Two children and their father died in a fire at their home in London early yesterday as their mother and elder sister watched helplessly from the street.

The dead were Mr Gordon Richards, aged 36, and his daughters Donna, aged six and Tammy, aged three. Mrs Jean Richards was walking the family dog when the fire broke out in their maisonette in Grosvenor Avenue, Islington.

Her eldest daughter Susan, aged 15, rushed out when the fire started. She and her mother stood in the street shouting to the family to get out.

Mr Alfred Woolley, who lives in the next door maisonette in the block of Greater London Council flats, said: "The first I knew about the fire was when I heard the sound of breaking glass and the woman screaming at her family from the road."

"She was shouting that the flat was on fire and to get out. But by then there was nothing they could do."

As the fire swept through the ground and first-floor maisonettes three railway workers passing by ran to an upstairs maisonette and rescued a mother and her two young children who were asleep.

Police break up gypsies' bare-knuckle prize fight before crowd of 600

From Our Correspondent
Cambridge

Bare-knuckle prize fighting has returned secretly to Britain, according to Chief Supt Bernard Hosson, head of Cambridge city police.

After police yesterday broke up a crowd of 600 gypsies and travelling folk who had poured into Cambridge to watch an illegal bare-knuckle contest, Mr Hosson said: "There have been reports from other parts of the country where trouble has broken out after contests for money have been staged."

Similar contests had taken place in Essex and Yorkshire. Police arrived in Fen Road, Chesterton, as best of up to 5,000 were being laid. They found the muddy lane blocked by hundreds of cars which included Rolls-Royces, Mercedes, and Jaguars. Many men were perched in trees seeking a grandstand view of the fight, which was about to begin.

Chief Inspector Steven Stafford arrived with six uniformed men to investigate the mass of men and vehicles in the lane, where many itinerants live.

He said: "I have never seen anything like it in my 25 years' service. There were gypsies and travellers from all over the country in new and expensive cars blocking the road and side bets of £1,000 were being laid."

"It could have been a very nasty situation, for whichever man won there would have been trouble from the losers with all that money involved."

"By the time we had forced our way to the centre of the lane the fighters had gone. Our aim was to prevent trouble, and I gave the crowd 20 minutes to disperse. Many were very nasty because they had travelled so far and there was a lot of haggling over bets which had been laid."

"But to our astonishment there was a mass exodus of angry men in beautiful cars and they had all gone before reinforcements arrived."

The fight was due to start as the police arrived. "There was no sign of a ring. I gathered that the men would form a human ring around the fighters", Mr Stafford said.

School meal said to be worse than workhouse's

Children in Blackburn are being served worse meals at school than those eaten by workhouse vagrants 50 years ago, Mr Jack Straw, Labour MP for Blackburn, said yesterday.

He plans to raise the matter in the Commons and protest personally to Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education and Science.

Mr Straw said the menu for Blackburn's primary school children last Thursday was one sausage, two slices of bread, a cornflake cake and a glass of water.

The workhouse menu in Blackburn 50 years ago was: bread, 8oz; cooked or tinned meat, 2oz; cheese, 2oz; hot potatoes, 4oz; fruit.

Mr Michael Fitzherbert, chairman of Lancashire County Council's education committee, said last night that the children paid 40p a day for a "nutritionally balanced snack of two light courses".

"The children like the snacks and there is no waste," he said. Primary responsibility for feeding the children rested with parents.

The library that helps and comforts MPs

By a Staff Reporter

The complex organisation and specialist services of that unique institution, the House of Commons Library, are described in a recently published book by Mr Dermot Englefield, the deputy librarian.

Mr Englefield says his book, *Parliament and Information*, describes the enormous changes that have taken place at the heart of the nation's information network in recent years.

It discusses the unique quality of the Commons Library, the only place a member of Parliament can go for confidential information from increasingly specialist staff who have no axe to grind.

The Library, Mr Englefield adds, is "comfortable to write in, to read in, to research in, to rest in; above all, except during very restricted hours, it is private to members who are beyond the reach of the outside world".

It is almost always open, staffed and organized to work to the level required and to tight deadlines. Mr Englefield says it provides a personal and confidential service so that members need not reveal their hand to civil servants or to their parties.

The computer revolution arrived at Westminster with the launch a few weeks ago of a development plan.

Mr Englefield also looks at the way Parliament is reported to the outside world.

Despite the introduction of parliamentary broadcasting, he writes, the portrait of Parliament, whether factual or impressionistic, that comes from the professional journalist will continue to be the most usual picture of the elected seen by the electorate.

Then came the second shock. Herr Dietrich Stobbe, the Chief Burgomaster, named four new senators for election by the city parliament and they were elected.

At least four demonstrators were taken to hospital with injuries. Police made 19 arrests. In Basle, police arrested 13 people in clashes at the end of a week-long series of public meetings organized by a local theatre on the theme "disorders in the state".

Young demonstrators broke up a discussion late on Friday night by throwing eggs, paint and firecrackers, and then went on a rampage through the city centre, police said.

The disturbances began in Zurich last May, with demands for more local authority grants for youth culture. The troubles have since spread to other Swiss cities.—Reuter.

WEST EUROPE

Frankfurt protest over El Salvador terror ends in mass violence

From Gretel Spitzer
Berlin, Feb 1

A protest demonstration in Frankfurt against "the terror of the military regime in El Salvador" supported by the United States got completely out of hand yesterday.

Instead of the 2,000 demonstrators expected by police, some 20,000 West Germans, Latin Americans, Turks and other foreign nationals marched through the city. Many leather-jacketed demonstrators wore crash helmets and masks.

A group of about 80 people broke away from the main demonstration, smashed shop windows, attacked banks and slashed the tyres of cars with American licence plates. Fireworks, were thrown at policemen and police cars daubed with dye and a shop was set on fire.

The damage was estimated at over a million marks (over £200,000). Five young demonstrators were detained and three policemen injured.

The demonstration, organized by the "El Salvador Solidarity Movement" of that country, the opposition of that country in West Germany, was supported by various left-wing and church groups.

Placards carried by the demonstrators demanded that the Americans should get out of El Salvador and urged the national protest against "the murder of the people" by the junta.

Herr Karsten Voigt, an SPD deputy and former leader of the Young Social Democrats, was arrested by the rioters, but he appealed to the Roman Catholic Church and all West German Christians to show solidarity

with the people in El Salvador. He urged President Reagan and his Administration to open a dialogue with the opposition in El Salvador.

In West Berlin, the police were on full alert today after three successive nights of violence. Some 150 shops, banks and other buildings were damaged in the riots in the course of which 57 people were arrested. Damage was estimated at over two million marks (nearly £500,000).

The riots were in protest at the lack of cheap housing in the city, and the 14-month sentence on a student jailed for his part in last December's squatter riots.

There has been widespread support for the squatters in view of the city's housing policy, but they are strongly criticized for their violence.

Because of the unsolicited backing of radical elements, the squatters changed their tactics last week. Instead of launching large demonstrations, small groups start trouble in various districts of the city, only to disappear quickly when police arrive, and then resume their protest elsewhere.

To prevent the gathering of such protest groups before they can start smashing windows and damaging property, the number of police patrols, both plain-clothes and uniformed, is to be increased.

Discussions among politicians, church representatives and civil groups on how to get the situation under control continued throughout the weekend.

Appeals to squatters not to resort to violence have yet to be heeded but after three nights of violence hopes are not too high.

Opposition sees road to power

Bonn coalition fights for survival in Berlin

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, Feb 1

West German politicians are preparing for a battle in West Berlin the outcome of which could decide the future of the Bonn Government.

The city elections, demanded by a large proportion of West Berliners in the wake of recent political upheavals, will severely test the Social Democrat-Free Democrat coalition which rules both in the city and in Bonn.

A defeat for the coalition in Berlin on May 10 could turn the malaise which has been afflicting the 11-year-old partnership since last October's Bundestag elections into a terminal disease. A victory for the Christian Democrats would be seen as the first big step on the road back to power.

For West Germans, Berlin is not just another big city. Both emotionally and politically the former capital, divided, isolated and dependent on East-West treaties and goodwill, its two million inhabitants have potential hostages to Moscow, is of great importance. For the two parties whose *Ostpolitik* made its existence more secure and its life easier, the loss of Berlin to the Opposition would be a big blow.

The trouble which set off the call for elections was hardly worthy of the city's status. The Social Democrat Party (SPD) has run the city with only one brief interruption since 1946 and scandals, patronage and malpractices have become an integral part of Berlin political life.

The last straw was a scandal which broke after the Senate, the city Government, guaranteed 90 per cent of a huge loan by the city's bank to a West Berlin building company, Bautechnik.

The company, having lost a huge sum in the Middle East, went into liquidation and the city will somehow have to find DM110m (£22.7m). Four senators resigned and a Senate committee is now investigating.

The inquiry will take seven months and the results will probably not come out before the elections.

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Dr. Vogel: Outstanding politician.

jected. Deputies from the coalition camp had used the secret vote to torpedo their own people. Shattered, Herr Stobbe resigned.

Seizing their opportunity, the Christian Democrats started lecturing signatures to petition referendum for new elections.

The avalanche of signatures several times the minimum 80,000 required, showed the Berliners wanted to voice the opinion. Soon the coalition parties realized that election had to come and without waiting for the referendum the fixed the date for May.

Meanwhile, the SPD tried to save the situation. Clear drastic steps were necessary. They even considered sending Herr Willy Brandt, former Chancellor and now party chairman, back to his old job: Chief Burgomaster.

Finally Herr Helmut Schmidt the Chancellor sent Dr. Han Jochen Vogel, his most valued minister and most likely successor, to the rescue. His acceptance by the Berlin parliament put the crisis on ice for the moment.

Dr Vogel is not only an outstanding politician but also of the best city administrator having been a young and successful mayor of Munich. If any one can save Berlin for the SPD, he can. But if he fails not only his career but He Schmidt's prestige will suffer badly.

Data protection challenge to UK

By Frances Gibb

A cabinet committee of ministers from the departments involved, which includes the Home Office, the Departments of Trade and Industry, and the Department of Health and Social Security, is to meet in the next two weeks to discuss the issue, but there is no certainty that legislation will be proposed.

The convention obliges signatories to bring in laws enshrining its principles and to establish appropriate sanctions and remedies "for their violation."

Mr Dudley Smith, Conservative MP for Warwick and Leamington, who is to put questions to Mr Whitelaw urging government action, said yesterday: "The signing of these conventions sharpens the need for legislation."

There was a danger, he said, that Britain would become

isolated and companies would lose contracts to France or West Germany because there was no protection in Britain over the use of data. Foreign companies would be unwilling to do business.

"Apart from companies, it has become evident that data users such as the medical services and universities are keenly aware of the need for legislation and are pressing for it to secure a climate of trust between themselves and the data subject: the private citizen."

Concern was also voiced by Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk and chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party Civil Liberties Group. He will ask Mr Whitelaw: "Does Britain will sign the convention and demand a statement of policy on data protection and privacy."

is caused by initial unfamiliarity or it reflects the inability of staff to cope with the complexity of the regulations.

The report recommends certain changes including telling claimants in writing which regulations are being cited. "The New Supplementary Benefit Scheme in Practice" (CPAG, 1 Macdonald Street, London WC2B 5BH, 60p).

GPs told to limit amount of drugs to possible suicides

By a Staff Reporter

Family doctors should limit the quantities of drugs they prescribe to patients who might try to kill themselves and put a more effort into giving advice and support to them, a report published by the Royal College of General Practitioners recommends.

So-called suicide attempts, in which patients probably have no real intention of killing themselves, are responsible for one in seven of acute medical admissions to hospital, the report says.

Prevention of Psychiatric Disorders in General Practice (Royal College of General Practitioners, 14 Princes Gate, London SW7, £3.)

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent

Corporal punishment in schools is ineffective, damaging, and incompatible with Christian educational ideals, the Church of England's London and Southwark diocesan boards of education say. They are urging church schools in their areas to phase out caning "over a limited period of time".

All inner London county schools have banned corporal punishment from today, but the prohibition cannot be made binding on the voluntary-aided church schools, which have the right to control their own

internal disciplinary procedures. According to the Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment (Stopp), one Church of England mixed comprehensive school, Bacon's in Rotherhithe, is top of London's "beating league" with 689 canings in 1976-77, the latest period for which figures are available.

All voluntary-aided Church of England schools in the London and Southwark diocese have been sent a letter from Preliminary R. H. Green, director of schools, setting out the church's views on corporal punishment.

The letter says: "It can be fairly argued that not only is corporal punishment incompatible with what a Christian should understand as educational ideals and aims, but also that it is unnecessary... ineffective... damaging, both psychologically and sometimes even physically... increasingly unacceptable throughout the civilized world and in this country... a serious breach of human rights... (and) far too wide in its permitted use..."

Corporal punishment could also encourage violence, the letter adds.

Confusion over new benefits scheme

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

First impressions of the new supplementary benefit scheme indicate that the Government has not achieved its promise of a simple system with clear and legally defined rights for payment.

In the first four weeks of the new scheme, monitoring by nine welfare agencies found

that social security staff were inadequately trained and consequently misinformed claimants.

Some staff made decisions unlawfully, by applying the new rules to claims made before they took effect, a report published today by the Child Poverty Action Group says.

The new scheme was introduced on November 24. It is not clear whether the confusion

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WEST EUROPE

Communists plead for new union of left to defeat M Giscard

From Ian Murray

Paris, Feb 1

M Georges Marchais, leader of the French Communist Party, has made it quite clear that he expects government posts to be given to his party should the Socialists win the presidential elections.

Speaking in Bordeaux yesterday and in Paris on Friday evening, to large party rallies, he said that Communist ministers were essential if there was to be a real and dynamic change in the way France was run.

In Bordeaux he made a long and detailed attack on the policies of President Giscard d'Estaing during his term in office. "As far as I am concerned, everything is clear," he said. "I want, along with my party, to create the conditions in which to beat Giscard d'Estaing."

To do this he called for "the union of all the popular forces, the union of the left for change". Rediscovery of the phrase "union of the left" by M Marchais after his many bitter attacks against the Socialist Party over the past three years, shows how far he has come down the path of reconciliation as the elections loom.

Nevertheless he is still

strongly critical of M François Mitterrand, the Socialist candidate. In his Paris speech he was particularly scathing of the way in which he believed Mitterrand was seeking to avoid a commitment to create Communist ministers. If the Socialist candidate pretended to talk of change without mentioning the Communists, he was making a mockery of the idea, he said.

M Marchais, while never having abandoned the idea of the union of the left in his public utterances, has until recently refused to accept that the Socialist Party leaders could ever bring about the kind of changes wanted by the Communists. Now he seems to be helping from their Communist friends they could still create the conditions for change.

M Michel Poniatowski, the president of the Republican Party and a close adviser of President Giscard d'Estaing, has sarcastically sent a copy of the French constitution to the Socialist Party to remind its leaders, as he put it, that the Communist Party was opposed to it.

Mitterrand, who is away in China, has not yet responded to the latest taunts aimed at him.

Dramatic journey for Spanish King

Delay over choice of Suárez successor

From Richard Wigg

Madrid, Feb 1

Large posters in Madrid streets are advertising a new book on King Juan Carlos, who later this week undertakes one of the most dramatic journeys of his reign—a visit to the troubled Basque region.

Emilio "Ever" Tach a King", the book charts the first five years of his reign and the transition to democracy executed by the man whom the King chose so successfully for the task, Señor Adolfo Suárez, who suddenly resigned office on Thursday.

The King spent the weekend in consultations with parliamentary leaders trying to fulfil probably the most crucial political function that the democratic process accorded him—selecting a candidate for the prime ministership. The royal choice, when made, requires parliamentary approval.

The serious, continuing divisions within the biggest party, the Centre Democratic Union (UCD), will make the King's task of choosing a new Prime Minister all the more difficult.

Because of these divisions, the King is not expected to nominate any politician before he goes to the Basque region on Tuesday. Despite the security risks, he will be accompanied by Queen Sophia and possibly Prince Felipe on the tour.

A second round of consultations may come when the King returns, but he may wait for the outcome of the UCD party conference, which will be held in Palma Majorca next weekend, before naming his choice.

Señor Leopoldo Calvo Sotelo, the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of economic affairs, is still the most likely successor to Señor Suárez.

Señor Calvo Sotelo had consultations this weekend with both his supporters in the party and with leaders from the Christian Democratic and liberal parliamentary wings who had not been consulted by Señor Suárez over the succession.

An opinion poll published by *Diario 16* yesterday showed Señor Calvo Sotelo coming far behind Señor Felipe González, the Opposition leader, as the man in the street's choice for the next Prime Minister—7.8 per cent compared with the Socialist leader's 50 per cent.

Right-wing members of the broad UCD alliance are saying that they will try to negotiate the best deal they can with Señor Calvo Sotelo over the new Government's formation and programme. The right-wing fears that Señor Suárez may be tempted to make a political comeback, perhaps as party president, at next weekend's conference.

One of the main issues facing the UCD is the divorce question. A bill to permit divorce in Spain—for the first time since the Civil War—is due to go through Parliament this coming session.

Señor Francisco Fernández, the Justice Minister, who comes from the party's social-democratic wing, indicated that he wanted to remain in his post and not be given the foreign affairs portfolio.

King Juan Carlos: consultations to find a prime minister.

Prisoners win transfer after revolt

Genoa, Feb 1—A prison revolt ended peacefully today when six guards held hostage for hours at knifepoint were set free after authorities agreed to transfer five prisoners to another jail.

Police said one of the guards seized by a riot from 15 prisoners this morning had a dislocated shoulder but the rest were unhurt.

Five men who led the revolt in the remand section of Marassi jail called it off when a local magistrate accepted their demand to be transferred immediately to another prison.

Four were members of a gang facing trial for the murder in Genoa in 1977 of a policeman.

Community industry and budget changes proposed

By David Wood

Two pamphlets are published today by Conservative members of the European Parliament proposing reforms within the European Community, perhaps partly with an eye on Britain's presidency of the Council of Ministers from July to December.

Mr Robert Jackson, MEP for Upper Thames, goes beyond reform of the common agricultural policy to the promotion of new spending policies. He argues that Britain can prove its case for budgetary fairness only by supporting budgetary convergence "designed deliberately to bring about resource transfers from richer to poorer regions".

Inherent in his logic is the British membership of the European monetary system. He is against further special arbitrary arrangements of the kind made

Fishing warning to EEC as fleets leave

Bilbao, Feb 1—Fishing fleets from northern Spain and the Canary Islands headed for their home ports today after agreements expired with the EEC and Morocco.

Nearly 675 boats were affected, 415 from the north and 260 from the Canaries. A spokesman for the northern fleet said that fishermen there might abandon their peaceful attitude, if the EEC does not grant them more fishing licences than the 168 they were given last year.

He hoped a new agreement would be announced at a meeting of the EEC Council of Ministers on February 10.

UPL

OVERSEAS

Bani-Sadr criticism of clergy increases

From Tony Allaway

Tehran, Feb 1

President Bani-Sadr of Iran this weekend launched a new phase in his unceasing war of words with the country's ruling powers.

In a speech in the southern town of Jiroft the President openly called for public support against the religious fundamentalists controlling the political apparatus, accusing his foes of "oppression and despotism".

In a newspaper interview published today he also accused parliament of attempting to eliminate every trace of the President from national life.

The President's new verbal onslaught coincides with the so far unconfirmed reports from political sources that Mr Bani-Sadr has spurned attempts at compromise with his declared enemies in the powerful Islamic Republican Party (IRP). Instead, the sources said the President is attempting to gather the support of as many other political groups as he can in his battle against the IRP.

The sources suggest that one reason for the President's latest onslaught might be elections expected to take place in the near future for some of the remaining parliamentary seats not decided in last spring's elections.

Certainly he was at his most outspoken in his speech in Jiroft which was reported by some of the Iranian press including, surprisingly, the official PARS news agency.

"I will resist tendencies towards oppression, towards pressure, towards prison and towards torture," he told a crowd of the main square in the town, where he had gone to examine the plight of war refugees resettled there.

Canadian MP disputes Trudeau version of Thatcher promise

From John Best

Ottawa, Feb 1

The exact nature of the pledge that Mrs Thatcher gave last summer to Mr Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, on his plans for constitutional reform, is expected to arouse heated discussion in the Canadian House of Commons this week.

Mr Jake Epp, a Conservative Opposition critic, said this weekend that he has written information that Mr Trudeau has not told the full story about his discussions in Downing Street on June 25 last.

Mr Trudeau has said repeatedly that the British Prime Minister promised to put on a three-line whip to push legislation through the British House to amend the British North America (BNA) Act in accordance with a request from Canada's Parliament.

Mrs Thatcher has never confirmed or denied the Canadian Prime Minister's version of the discussion. Meanwhile the question has become politically explosive here because of confusion and doubt over whether Mrs Thatcher was made fully aware of what she was being asked to commit herself to.

Specifically, it is not at all clear that she knew the Westminster would be asked to enact a Canadian charter of rights

before surrendering control over the BNA Act, still the basis of Canada's constitution.

The rights charter has become the most highly contentious part of the Canadian "patriation" resolution, which is opposed by eight of Canada's 10 provinces. It is also unclear whether Mr Trudeau advised Mrs Thatcher about his discussions in Downing Street on June 25 last.

At his press conference, an extraordinary affair, Mr Trudeau said the committee, headed by Sir Anthony Kerwin, and the British Parliament "have no business deciding what is good for Canada".

"Interference by Britain," he said, "in the final analysis, is interference by Britain."

At another point he remarked that it would be funny for Britain to remain in the Commonwealth "and to have refused to give complete and final independence to one of its former colonies when that has been requested".

The British might find it difficult to justify their position when Commonwealth heads of government met in Melbourne this autumn.

"If they (the British) are wise," he added, "they will get it through quickly and hold their nose while they are doing it and send it over."

Russians know they must foot the bill

Continued from page 1

attempts to undermine from within the power of the workers, their unity, moral spirit and loyalty to class interests.

It said the Government had repeatedly stated its readiness to solve problems around the negotiating table, but "this was clearly not to the liking of Solidarity leaders who were following a path of confrontation and aggression in the country's economic and political affairs".

Reflecting the deep concern of the Soviet leadership—and indeed of most Russians—that the Polish crisis might have to be paid for from the pockets of Soviet workers, *Izvestia* spoke of an "escalation of tension and deepening of chaos" in the economy, which was "leading to a return to a normal rhythm of life".

All this was costing billions of zlotys, thousands of tons of uncast steel and unmined coal and tens of thousands of pairs of unmade shoes, *Izvestia* said.

Echoing similar ominous assertions in December, denied at the time by the Polish leadership, *Izvestia* reported that workers were being intimidated by some brigades of Solidarity to ensure cooperation in strikes.

The report is the toughest attack yet on the union and the most gloomy picture yet given to the Russians of the situation in Poland. It is seen both by Russians and by western observers here as a sign that Moscow has reached the limits of tolerance.

Though there is no suggestion that the Russians are now ready to blame Mr Stanislaw Kania, the party leader, who still appears to enjoy the Kremlin's confidence, it is clear that they are expecting the Polish authorities to take, fairly swiftly, more decisive action.

Tass reported the announcement that action would be taken against those who illegally seized factories to press their demands. The Russians emphasised on such a crack-down indicates that Moscow has probably been pressing Warsaw for a tougher stance towards the strikers.

Arab teachers prosecuted over West Bank strike

From Our Correspondent

Tel Aviv, Feb 1

Twelve Palestinian Arabs representing about 7,200 West Bank teachers, who have been striking for higher pay, were arrested yesterday by the military government and will be prosecuted under a Jordanian regulation prohibiting strikes by civil servants.

Arab sources said the prisoners were members of the General Committee for Teachers in the West Bank. Military government sources said 40 other members detained but released yesterday may also be prosecuted.

The Arab sources said the strike began 45 days ago and affected 227,000 pupils in primary, preparatory and high school. They said the strike was "purely professional" and concerned pay which was substantially lower than that of Israeli teachers. A military government source said the strikers had been offered substantial increases.

The staff officer for education published warnings that the strike was illegal. The authorities cracked down when a three-week vacation ended and the teachers failed to return to work.

Labour pledges: Mr Shimon Peres, the Israeli Opposition leader, said today that if he were elected prime minister, he would "definitely not" be obliged to follow the policies of Mr Menachem Begin—particularly regarding Jewish settlements on occupied Arab lands (UPI writes from Tel Aviv).

But Mr Peres said Israel was united regardless of political preference on the issue of Jerusalem. He called for the construction of 50,000 apartments to strengthen the Jewish population in its international treaties, such as its peace treaty with Egypt. But domestic policies were another matter, and settlements fell into this category, just as did economic policy.

Labour's optimism about the elections in the summer is reflected in public opinion polls. In a poll published last Friday the newspaper *Masruv* found all its internationalist supporters. Likud grouping slipped another 2 points to 14 per cent, and Labour's standing rose 2 per cent to 44 per cent.

South Africa Museum in Cape Town and coincided with a period of particularly poor relations between Salisbury and Pretoria after the South African raid into Mozambique last week.

The birds are among a group of eight that were originally found in an east-side enclosure of the acropolis at the ruins in 1891 by James Theodore Bent, an archaeologist-explorer who had been dispatched to the site by Rhodes and the Royal Geographical Society.

Iraq takes delivery of French jets

From Ian Murray

Paris, Feb 1

France has delivered, on time, the first four Mirage F1 fighters to Iraq out of a total order for 60. The aircraft, which were ordered in 1977, were handed over to Iraqi pilots in Cyprus yesterday.

In a statement today, the Iranian Embassy in Paris said: "The Iranian people will never forget this act by the French Government."

According to a statement from the French Foreign Ministry, the Government had always made it clear that it would execute the orders laid down at the time they were placed.

Since the start of the Gulf war, France had not delivered any military equipment to Iraq. The Mirages appear to have been regarded as a special case since they were ordered well before the start of the war and presumably have been paid for.

The four jets were flown to Cyprus and handed over to Iraqi pilots who had arrived three days earlier on board a Jordanian flight. The Cyprus Government initially said that it believed the aircraft had been delivered to Jordan.

Peru ends decree law as troops take border post

Lima, Feb 1 (AFP)

President Fernando Belaúnde Terry of Peru announced here late today that a proclamation of a state of emergency had been lifted after the "victory" of his country's troops in border clashes with Ecuador.

He cancelled the emergency decree after it was learnt that an outpost at Paquisha, which had been occupied by Ecuador, had been retaken by Peruvian troops.

Earlier President Belaúnde had said that his country would accept a ceasefire in its border conflict with Ecuador as soon as Peru had captured the final outpost occupied by Ecuador on Peruvian territory. Agency France-Press and AP.

South Africa sends back Zimbabwe's symbolic stone birds

From Stephen Taylor

Salisbury, Feb 1

In a cultural exchange rich in irony, South Africa has returned to Zimbabwe a collection of five stone birds that were removed from the Great Zimbabwe ruins in the nineteenth century by an archaeologist working on the orders of Cecil John Rhodes.

In exchange for the birds, regarded as the most significant artifacts in the new nation's heritage, the South Africans have received an outstanding collection of insects.

The transaction concluded months of secret negotiations between Zimbabwe's National Museums and Monuments Department and the South African Museum in Cape Town and coincided with a period of particularly poor relations between Salisbury and Pretoria after the South African raid into Mozambique last week.

The birds are among a group of eight that were originally found in an east-side enclosure of the acropolis at the ruins in 1891 by James Theodore Bent, an archaeologist-explorer who had been dispatched to the site by Rhodes and the Royal Geographical Society.

Fearing that others would soon follow him, Bent hid his booty, including the birds, gold and pottery, in a cave well by until he could arrange for it to be transported to Cape Town.

At the time of the exchange, five of the birds were in the

Black African leaders denounce commando attack on Mozambique

From Nicholas Ashford

Johannesburg, Feb 1

One of the two South African soldiers killed during the commando raids on African National Congress (ANC) hideouts in Maputo last Friday was of British origin, it has been revealed here. He was Sergeant Robert Hutchinson, whose parents live in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

The other dead South African was named as Sergeant Ian Sutill.

Altogether 14 people were killed during the South African attack on three houses in the Maputo suburb of Matola during the early hours of Friday morning. They included 11 occupants of the ANC houses, the two South African soldiers and a Portuguese civilian who was caught in the crossfire while driving to work. One of the ANC dead is reported to be Mr William Khanyile, a former Robben Island prisoner and a one-time senior member of the South African Congress of Trade Unions.

The raid, the first of its kind by South Africa against a target in Mozambique, has received widespread condemnation in neighbouring states as it is seen as a signal that South Africa may be embarking on an aggressive new policy in dealing with the ANC.

Lieutenant-General Armando Guebuza, Mozambique's Deputy Defence Minister, said the attack was "a foul and criminal act". He told a Frelimo party conference that it was a challenge to Mozambique's right to shelter South African citizens "being persecuted by the apartheid regime".

In Salisbury, Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, said in a message to President Samora Machel of Mozambique that these wanton acts of murder and aggression by the brigades of the Pretoria regime would not deter Africa from assisting the people of South Africa and Namibia to attain their freedom.

The raid was also condemned by Chief Gashu Buthelesi, the Chief Minister of Kwazulu and president of the Inkatha movement, the largest black organisation in South Africa. Addressing an Inkatha rally in Soweto he said that such actions would only drive more South African

Western companies accused by MPs of breaking oil embargo on Pretoria

From Michael Hornsby

Brussels, Feb 1

European and American companies were accused here this weekend of playing a key role in helping South Africa to maintain its imports of crude oil despite the embargo operated by the main oil exporting countries.

A declaration issued by more than 40 MPs from 11 European countries said there was "alarming evidence" that Western companies were "purchasing oil from various countries including those that embargo South Africa, and then secretly taking it directly or indirectly to South Africa".

The accusation was levelled at the end of a two-day conference of West European parliamentarians on an oil embargo against South Africa, organised by the United Nations special committee against apartheid.

The parliamentarians called on the United Nations Security Council to impose a mandatory oil embargo against South Africa, which has no indigenous oil resources, in line with resolutions passed by an overwhelming majority of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly voted in 1979, and again in 1980, for an oil embargo, but the seven countries which voted against included Britain, France and the United States. As permanent members of the Security Council, all three have the power of veto.

Outlining the conclusions of the conference for journalists, Mr Laurens Brinkhorst, a Dutch opposition politician belonging to the left-of-centre Democrats 66 group, described an oil embargo as "one of the last peaceful means of putting an end to apartheid".

South Africa has built up large strategic stockpiles of crude oil, kept mainly in disused coal mines in the Transvaal, and can meet around 20 per cent of its oil needs from its oil-coal plants. But studies done for the United Nations suggest that a totally effective oil embargo could bring the South African economy to a grinding halt within two-and-a-half years.

The parliamentarians' accusations against Western oil and shipping companies were

strongly supported by a still confidential analysis of the sources of South Africa's crude oil imports which is to be published later this year by the Amsterdam-based Shipping Research Bureau.

Since the beginning of 1979, when the new Iranian Government (previously the source of 90 per cent of South Africa's crude) cut off supplies, all Arab and African oil exporting countries have operated an embargo against South Africa, which admits to supplying the South Africans.

The one exception is Brunei, which is known to supply about 8 per cent of South Africa's needs.

Despite the embargo, and the disclaimers of governments and companies in the West, South Africa is still able to import an estimated 300,000 barrels of crude oil a day. It is clear that most of this is embargoed oil, and it appears that one international company—Shell—is deeply involved in this trade.

In the absence of official statistics, the Amsterdam research bureau has made a close study of the movements of the world's tanker fleet, and identified a total of 150 tankers which called at either Cape Town or Durban during the 15 months from the beginning of 1979 to the end of March 1980.

The study accepts that a fair number of these may have been calling simply for repair, bunker fuel or other supplies. But it has identified 23 super-tankers each with capacity of 200,000 tons, which it considers almost certain to have delivered oil.

Of these 23, which on their own could have met 25 per cent of South Africa's oil needs during the period in question, 15 sailed to Cape Town or Durban, and 12 were owned or chartered by Shell. Seven were owned and managed by Norwegian companies.

But when the matter was raised in the House of Assembly the department discreetly put the word round that it was negotiating with experts. "If politicians had intruded it would have scotched the deal," Mr Jackson said.

The collection of Hymenoptera which has gone to South Africa was started in the 1920s by George Arnold, director of Bulawayo's National Museum, and has been added to since. It consists of more than 30,000 specimens.



A supporter of Ayatollah Khomeini who says she is willing to die for him.

"I call on the nation for support and assure you that such steadfastness will pave the way to a happy future."

The President told the people to fear nothing "if you do not want to be ruled by those who want to bring back the bad days of the past through trickery, calumny, libel, prison and torture".

In an interview with the newspaper *Islamic Revolution* published today the President also declared that the IRP-dominated Majlis (parliament) "has had no other purpose

except to eliminate the President... Wherever they see a trace of the President they try to eliminate it... The problem is that the constitution has not been implemented from the beginning."

Despite the admission of some of his aides that the recent Iranian counter-offensive had come to virtually nothing, the President said Iran was now in the process of launching a "third phase" of its struggle with Iraq. He did not specify what this involved beyond saying it meant using "the full

employment of resources: we have for crushing the enemy". Diplomatic break: Iran has broken diplomatic relations with Jordan and Morocco, the state radio announced (Reuters writes from Tehran). It said that the break had been approved at a four-hour Cabinet meeting by an overwhelming majority.

Mr Behzad Nabavi, Executive Affairs Minister, told the radio the move was made "because of the two countries' full support for the Iraqi regime and their enmity to the Islamic revolution of Iran".

Iraq takes delivery of French jets

From Ian Murray

Paris, Feb 1

France has delivered, on time, the first four Mirage F1 fighters to Iraq out of a total order for 60. The aircraft, which were ordered in 1977, were handed over to Iraqi pilots in Cyprus yesterday.

In a statement today, the Iranian Embassy in Paris said: "The Iranian people will never forget this act by the French Government."

According to a statement from the French Foreign Ministry, the Government had always made it clear that it would execute the orders laid down at the time they were placed.

Since the start of the Gulf war, France had not delivered any military equipment to Iraq. The Mirages appear to have been regarded as a special case since they were ordered well before the start of the war and presumably have been paid for.

The four jets were flown to Cyprus and handed over to Iraqi pilots who had arrived three days earlier on board a Jordanian flight. The Cyprus Government initially said that it believed the aircraft had been delivered to Jordan.

Peru ends decree law as troops take border post

Lima, Feb 1 (AFP)

President Fernando Belaúnde Terry of Peru announced here late today that a proclamation of a state of emergency had been lifted after the "victory" of his country's troops in border clashes with Ecuador.

He cancelled the emergency decree after it was learnt that an outpost at Paquisha, which had been occupied by Ecuador, had been retaken by Peruvian troops.

Earlier President Belaúnde had said that his country would accept a ceasefire in its border conflict with Ecuador as soon as Peru had captured the final outpost occupied by Ecuador on Peruvian territory. Agency France-Press and AP.

South Africa sends back Zimbabwe's symbolic stone birds

From Stephen Taylor

Salisbury, Feb 1

In a cultural exchange rich in irony, South Africa has returned to Zimbabwe a collection of five stone birds that were removed from the Great Zimbabwe ruins in the nineteenth century by an archaeologist working on the orders of Cecil John Rhodes.

In exchange for the birds, regarded as the most significant artifacts in the new nation's heritage, the South Africans have received an outstanding collection of insects.

The transaction concluded months of secret negotiations between Zimbabwe's National Museums and Monuments Department and the South African Museum in Cape Town and coincided with a period of particularly poor relations between Salisbury and Pretoria after the South African raid into Mozambique last week.

The birds are among a group of eight that were originally found in an east-side enclosure of the acropolis at the ruins in 1891 by James Theodore Bent, an archaeologist-explorer who had been dispatched to the site by Rhodes and the Royal Geographical Society.

Fearing that others would soon follow him, Bent hid his booty, including the birds, gold and pottery, in a cave well by until he could arrange for it to be transported to Cape Town.

At the time of the exchange, five of the birds were in the

Black African leaders denounce commando attack on Mozambique

From Nicholas Ashford

Johannesburg, Feb 1

One of the two South African soldiers killed during the commando raids on African National Congress (ANC) hideouts in Maputo last Friday was of British origin, it has been revealed here. He was Sergeant Robert Hutchinson, whose parents live in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire.

The other dead South African was named as Sergeant Ian Sutill.

Altogether 14 people were killed during the South African attack on three houses in the Maputo suburb of Matola during the early hours of Friday morning. They included 11 occupants of the ANC houses, the two South African soldiers and a Portuguese civilian who was caught in the crossfire while driving to work. One of the ANC dead is reported to be Mr William Khanyile, a former Robben Island prisoner and a one-time senior member of the South African Congress of Trade Unions.

OVERSEAS

Prisoners of conscience

Taiwan:
Li Ching-sun

By Caroline Moorehead

Li Ching-sun, a former deputy director of the state-owned national radio and chairman of the executive council of the Great China Evening News, is serving a 15-year sentence in a prison off the south-eastern coast of Taiwan.

At his military court trial under martial law legislation in December, 1971, he was charged with sedition.

Li Ching-sun—also known as Li Jinhuan—spent a period of his journalistic career as editor of the *Central Daily News*, the ruling party of Taiwan. He is believed to have been a long-standing party member.

After his arrest in November, 1970, Li Ching-sun was accused of belonging to the Chinese Communist Party, passing government secrets to the Chinese Communists and attempting to foment a revolt in Taiwan.

None of these charges, however, referred to anything taking place after 1949, when the Kuomintang Government left mainland China for Taiwan. Li Ching-sun himself was born on the mainland and moved to Taiwan that year.

According to recent information, Li Ching-sun suffers from diabetes and low blood pressure. Since his trial he has said that he confessed to the charges against him only under duress.

The true reason for his imprisonment, it would seem, is that he had in the past written articles criticizing the Government for inefficiency and corruption.

Peking to stop backing Asean communist insurgent movements

From David Watts

Bangkok, Feb 1

Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Chinese Prime Minister, today indicated important developments after two sessions of "very fruitful" talks with General Prem Tinsulanonda, his Thai counterpart.

At a press conference, Mr Zhao hinted that there had been progress towards the unification of resistance movements fighting the Vietnamese in Kampuchea and said that China was ending its material support to communist insurgent movements in the countries of South-East Asia.

The Chinese and the Thais have for some time been pressing for the unification of the military arm of the Government of Democratic Kampuchea, the Khmer Rouge, and the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF), the leading non-communist resistance group.

The Chinese have said that there would be no substantial support for the KPNLF, headed by Mr Son Sann, a former Prime Minister of Kampuchea, until there was cooperation between this group and the Khmer Rouge. But Mr Son Sann has consistently rejected the idea of union between the two groups, though he favours occasional military cooperation.

"I am optimistic about the unification of all patriotic resistance forces in Kampuchea," Mr Zhao remarked, indicating that there had been progress over Chinese plans for a unified military front against the Vietnamese in Kampuchea.

This is a principal element of China's Kampuchea policy in line with the countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean). Both the Chinese and Asean want either Mr Son Sann or Prince Norodom Sihanouk to lead the unified movement, to give its respectability, while harnessing the military strength of the Khmer Rouge—the only credible military opponents of the Vietnamese—to the joint effort.

One Chinese source said that Prince Sihanouk "was being stubborn" but the prince did indicate, in a recent letter to a Hongkong-based magazine, that he would be willing to lead his people militarily against the Vietnamese.

The Khmer Rouge has said that its leaders would be willing to stand aside for any new leader able and willing to fight for the rejection of the Vietnamese.

On the question of Chinese-supported insurgency movements in Thailand and Malaysia, Mr Zhao said the Chinese were opposed to any interference in the internal affairs of other countries. The relationship between the Communist Party of China and the communist parties of the Asean countries was "a moral and political relationship. We maintain some relations with the communist parties in these countries but they will not obstruct the development of the relationship between China and the Asean countries."

Mr Zhao went on to say that relations with the Asean were now good and Peking would continue to strengthen them. "We sincerely hope that the Asean countries will unite all patriotic forces in their countries," he added.

Chinese sources said that Mr Zhao's remarks indicated that there was now no military support for the insurgency movements in Thailand and Malaysia and that China wanted the Communists in those countries to be allowed to take part in normal political processes.

Throughout his Bangkok visit the Chinese leader emphasized Chinese support for Thailand, and for Asean's call for an international conference on Kampuchea.

Mr Zhao said that if there was a further incursion by the Vietnamese into Thailand, "the Government and people of China would stand firmly beside the people of Thailand and find some means of coming to their aid."

Widespread unrest reported in China

From David Lan

Agence France-Presse

Hongkong, Feb 1

Recent reports from China have revealed signs of widespread unrest which, if unchecked, could lead to political instability, disrupting the country's modernization programme.

An analysis of the Chinese media shows that the unrest has taken several forms including publications, posters, leaflets with slogans, demonstrations, occasional explosions and even agitation for another cultural revolution.

Among those involved are intellectuals who have been returned to the countryside or have returned from there to the cities, remnant followers of the disgraced Gang of Four, and various minorities.

The areas affected, as mentioned in the reports, include Xinjiang in the west, Tibet and Yunnan in the south-west, Shanghai in the east and Jilin in the north-east.

The party theoretical journal, *Red Flag*, yesterday stated: "In our country, there is a class struggle and factors of instability, so we must not let up on our vigilance."

Describing the recent Peking trial of the Gang of Four and their associates as "a victory over the legal system," the journal called for the use of the law to attack "all enemies subverting stability and to firmly shatter remnant forces of the Lin Biao-Jiang Qing cliques."

The *Peking Daily* said yesterday: "A pessimistic wave of sabotage, protests and despair is being sweeping the country." If unchecked, "it is bound to ruin our hard-earned political stability."

A Shanghai paper reported last week that remnant followers of the Gang of Four were running illegal cells and publications under the cover of "democracy." Some of them hoped to use methods of the Cultural Revolution and stage a second revolution.

The *Liberation Daily* of Shanghai said: "There still exist factors of instability and they keep rising."

These are just a few of a series of articles speaking of the dangers to China's stability, against a background of unusual events across the country.

Most noticeable among these has been the movements of Mr Wang Zhaohua, a Politburo member who recently visited Shanghai and is now reported in Xinjiang, both of them places shimmering with unrest.

Reliable sources were quoted as saying that about 10,000 students had recently demonstrated in the centre of Shanghai, demanding legalisation of their status.

Briton's body is found in hotel basement

Johore Baru, Malaysia, Feb 1

Malaysian police said today that the body of a British architect had been found in a septic tank in a Johore Baru hotel.

The body was found in a septic tank in a hotel which was suspected in the death of Douglas Hurst, aged 32, from Wimbledon, London.

A plumber found the body while checking a pump in the hotel's basement. Police said Mr Hurst checked into the hotel on January 19 and was reported missing five days later.

—Reuter.

Hongkong doubts unallayed over nationality law

From Our Correspondent

Hongkong, Feb 1

The British Government's assurance that the British Nationality Bill is not designed to weaken the links between Britain and Hongkong has not allayed doubts among expatriates and resident Chinese in the crown colony.

There was immediate popular and official support for the recommendation by Sir Paul Bryan, the chairman of the all-party Anglo-Hongkong group of MPs, that the passports of Hongkong citizens should carry the words "British (Hongkong) citizen" and that the passport of inhabitants of the other dependent territories should similarly have the name of the country inserted.

Commentaries in the Hongkong United States claimed that the new legislation sought to make Hongkong residents "second-class citizens."

There is strong belief that Britain is steadily discarding the ties with Hongkong.

Summing up this public opinion, a leading article in *The Express*, the leading Chinese-language daily, said: "Although it is generally acknowledged that a close link between Hongkong and Britain is of mutual advantage, Whitehall has taken the wrong line in a series of measures which can only cause friction, such as restrictions on our textiles, the sharp increase in school fees of our students studying in the United Kingdom and now the Nationality Bill."

It should be realized that this discriminatory policy is not taken because of protectionism or nationalism but rather the propensity to shrink one's responsibilities.

There has been swift assurance from the United States consulate here to Hongkong students that the new controls on foreigners studying in the United States will not seriously affect them.

Under the controls, which will take effect from February 23, all foreign students will be permitted to remain in the United States for only the length of time required to complete the approved course of study.

British minister in cordial talks with Dr Obote

From Our Correspondent

Nairobi, Feb 1

Mr Richard Luce, Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, met President Milton Obote, in Entebbe yesterday and discussed relations between Britain and Uganda in the light of the December elections which brought Dr Obote to power.

The talks were described as cordial. The Ugandans have asked for more British aid including military assistance to train the newly-recruited Ugandan Army, as well as a wide range of development and technical aid.

Mr Shafiq Arain, the newly-appointed Ugandan High Commissioner in London and the only Asian in Dr Obote's Cabinet, attended the talks.

The President and Mrs Obote later gave a lunch in honour of Mr Luce, which was also attended by Mr William Billie, the British High Commissioner, and by Sir David and Lady Scott.

Sir David, who was High Commissioner in Uganda from 1966 to 1969, has now retired from the diplomatic service and is visiting Uganda on behalf of Mitchell Cotts, the firm that owns large tea estates there, and of Barclays Bank.

Sir David has been renewing acquaintance with Dr Obote, who was in office when he served in Uganda.

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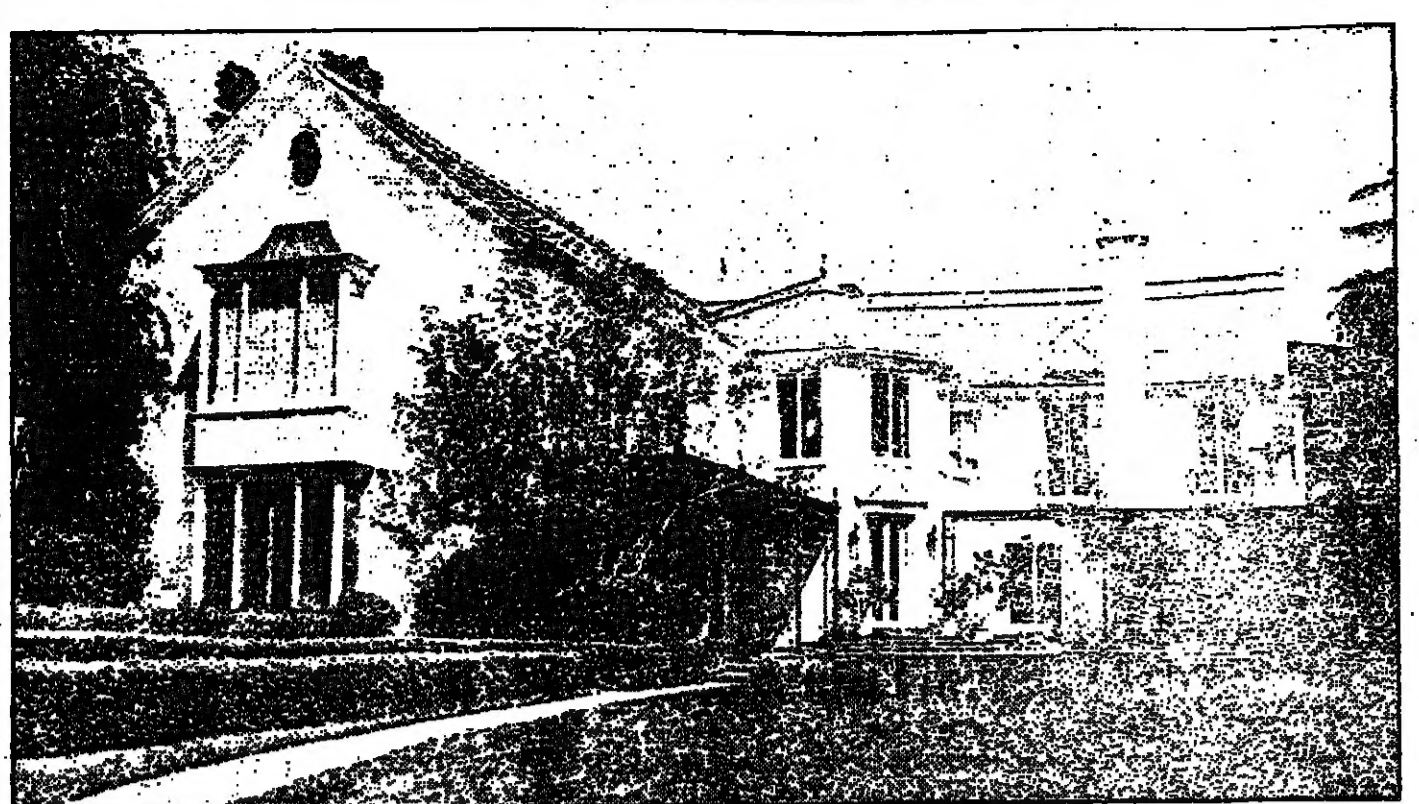
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People

The treasures of Pickfair go on the auction block



Pickfair, the Hollywood home of Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks Sr.

"I gently admonish all loved ones and friends that there be no 'weeping'," declared America's Sweetheart Mary Pickford in her voluminous will. By the time she died in 1979 at the age of 86 there were few left to weep but many, it seems, to squabble over the spoils.

When the treasures of Pickfair, second only to the White House at one time as the most famous residence in America, go on sale on February 19 at the James Goodman Gallery in Glendale, California, there will be no sign of the complicated negotiations that have gone on since her death over the considerable assets she left behind.

In fact, it will be almost as fascinating an exercise to examine what will not go on the auction block as to see what will be there. For since her death there has been intrigue and infighting worthy of a Venetian court.

In her will the silent star, whose marriage to Douglas Fairbanks, sr, made them the most glamorous couple in the land, decreed that the proceeds of the sale of the 22 room converted hunting lodge, where everyone from Albert Einstein to European royalty, from mobster Bugsy Siegel to Charlie Chaplin were entertained, should go to the non-profit Mary Pickford Foundation.

The house was recently bought for \$5.4m (£2.2m) but for the past year lawyers for Miss Pickford's husband, 41 years, former band leader and actor Buddy Rogers have been negotiating with executors of the estate over what Mr Rogers, who is also a trustee, is entitled to claim from the house under the terms of the will, which stated he should receive "such household furnishings as he may designate as necessary to properly furnish his home."

Trustees said they expected a modest house to be furnished—not the 7,500 square foot lodge that Mr Rogers has been building on land adjoining Pickfair.

Finally the tour awarded Rogers \$1m to cash as his share in helping his wife sell—some 25 years ago—her interest in United Artists, the studio she founded with Fairbanks, D. W. Griffith and Chaplin in the twenties—as well as half of Pickfair's furnishings.

While all this was going on appraisers reported that one day two moving men arrived to remove pieces of furniture and when challenged said they were working for Mrs Rogers.

"But she's dead," an appraiser noted, later discovering that the "Mrs Rogers" referred to was a long time friend of Buddy Rogers.

Other precious items—including pieces from Pickfair's exquisite jade collection—were believed stolen and a valuable box of six decorative guns given by



Buddy Rogers beside a portrait of his wife Mary Pickford as Betsy Ross, the seamstress of the first American flag.

Rudolf Valentino to Douglas Fairbanks, and willed to the Smithsonian Institute were sent from the house—but vanished on the way.

Miss Pickford's star sapphire, however was personally picked up by a representative of the Washington museum. Mr Rogers acquired the 100 piece Napoleon Josephine china dinner service—willed to him—the ten Frederic Remington paintings and the famous Rodin drawings. Over the years there have been rumours about the authenticity of the artwork and executor Sull Lawrence notes, "We too doubt that the Remingtons are the genuine article and we believe the Rodins to be copies and of no great value."

Appraisers uncovered Miss Pickford's "honeymoon box"—containing her wedding dress, a kimono monogrammed with a brown teddy bear and a doll. Even more poignant were letters from Miss Pickford

to Fairbanks pleading with him not to divorce her and besmirch their image as America's perfect couple. Fairbanks did, however, in 1935 to marry Lady Sylvia Ashley.

Among the items to be offered are two solid gold carrier monogrammed vanity sets, old Chinese silks, oil paintings of the actress, Fairbanks costumes from the *Mark of Zorro*, silver from Tiffany's, her film costumes, and photographs inscribed from all the Hollywood greats including a pre-mustache Clark Gable, and her flapper style wedding dress.

There are still some 165 boxes from the estate trammed with articles which are being sifted through and as Mr Goodman the auctioneer, says: "This is the ultimate Hollywood house and I believe people will be buying as much for memory and legend as for investment."

Ivor Davis

Can the Taj Mahal be saved from ruin by pollution?

Count Keyserling in his *Travel Diary of a Philosopher* wrote that the Taj Mahal was one of the greatest works of art, it is perhaps the greatest of all pieces of artifice which the spirit of man has ever achieved. He also spoke of the "enamel-like quality" of the marble monument.

Since Keyserling wrote these lines, in 1914, the enamel-like quality of the marble has become the victim of the mindless drift to industrial growth.

In the once imperial capital of the Moghuls, Agra, two thermal power houses belch smoke emitting nine tons of pollutants each day into the atmosphere. For 30 years a north-westerly wind has wafted the pollutants to the side of the Taj nearest the Jumuna river.

As if this was not punishment enough, indiscriminate licensing of foundries has resulted in 250 of them coming up, adding their quota of about four tons of pollutants a day. Not to be left behind, the shunting yard of the Indian railways utilized steam engines adding their share of one and a half tons of pollutants.

The greatest damage has been inflicted at the lower end of the Taj dome facing the river. Elsewhere too the pollutants have lodged in the moisture trapped between marbles and these have released an acidic reaction that has resulted in discolouring of some of the marble to grey and brownish tints. Semi-precious stones, black, yellow, red as well as pink agate which adorn significant portions of the Taj have suffered from eruptions resembling the oozing of eczema on human skin. While marble has a strong grained surface, it can still be pitted.

Apart from the main structure of the Taj, there are the surrounding monuments that make up the Taj complex, its exterior gate and its flanking buildings also beautifully architected in red sandstone. The sandstone is flaking. Speaking of the main monument, Somnath Chib, India's former Director-General of Tourism, says that "In 50 years the Taj could look black". Another environmentalist, Professor T. Shivaji Rao, warns in 30 years the monument could crumble unless action is taken. The Taj no longer gleams in the sun but a good part of the white marble is still clear and can be saved by prompt action. Fortunately the government has moved albert late, Prime Minister Indira Gandhi personally rang the Chairman of the Railway Board and ordered that steam engines used for shunting be replaced by diesel.

From September 12 this has been done. For the other two main pollutants, the Prime Minister has depended on action by the state government of Uttar Pradesh, (UP) India's largest and slowest-moving state. Its chief minister elected last June, pleads privately that he has hardly had time since assuming office to attend to the Taj, because he is hovering between floods and other pressing law and order problems in the state. Now his own position as chief minister is shaky. It will need more than goodwill on Mrs Gandhi's part to get the UP State machinery moving. She has not been slow. This writer was shown a letter from the Planning Commission to the President of the Heritage Society of India, Mr R. N. Mircha, MP. Mr Mircha was assured that New Delhi will give the State government compensation of £4m to meet the cost of shifting the power plants. Incidentally for all the

damage they cause, the two power plants generate a negligible 4 megawatts power. They need to be shut down immediately and the loss met from the national grid. The other procedure is too lengthy.

The coal-based foundries will probably prove a more difficult problem. There is an in-built reluctance in people to shift their place of work. If foundry owners do move, they seem in a mood to bargain and claim certain privileges in sale of land, which is now quite expensive. In case they fail to move within the next year, at least switch their operations from coal to natural gas from a nearby refinery due to 20 on stream by June 1981. All this needs determined action and, without prodding from New Delhi, a shift is hardly likely.

A separate Ministry of the Environment was created recently by Mrs Gandhi to take these and other matters in hand.

It is the refinery situated 45 kms from the Taj that could levy the greatest toll on this wonder of the modern world. The early objections of environmentalists and warnings of the Director-General of Archaeology were overruled in 1974. The refinery site was chosen at a central location from where north-westerly winds could bring the pollutants to the Taj. The location could have been shifted earlier but by now more than £100m sterling has been poured into the refinery, and the question of shifting the whole paraphernalia does not arise. The discharge of the refinery could be up to one ton of sulphur dioxide and other pollutants per hour.

The Heritage Society of India has proposed that all the

refinery's harmful effluents and destructive gases be channelled over 45 kms through a pipeline in a place south of the Taj in order to bypass the monument. It is a moot point whether this is possible and is a fool-proof solution. The Heritage Society has also proposed that monitoring of the pollutants let off by the refinery should be done on a continuous basis by an authority independent of the Ministry running the refinery.

Emperor Shah Jehan who had the Taj Mahal built as a tomb for his beloved wife thought of protecting the Taj from the dust of the surrounding region—the main environmental threat to its monument in those days. So he built not only a garden with trees in front of the Taj. Two years ago flood waters invaded the fields along the opposite bank to the Taj. When the waters receded, they took the top-soil with them leaving behind a staggering sight of fountains in ruins, and indicating that a complete garden was laid out as a companion to the Taj across the river.

For 20 years 20,000 men sweated to fulfil the dream of their Emperor. On a full-moon night in November I visited the Taj. Its dome looked like a giant pearl in the mist. As the eye steadied under the silvery light, the Taj came alive to exert its spell. It looked like a Pontiff, all in white and the twin-minarets on its left and right appeared like a Pontiff's arms outstretched in a benediction to those who had braved the cold to pay homage. The best homage contemporary India can pay is to move with speed to save the Taj. There is some hope that it is beginning to do so.

R. M. Lal

If your house is too big



you can help others in need

This house in Northumberland has become too large for its owner. Rates and maintenance were heavy. Help the Aged's plan solved two problems—the owner's, and that of some retired people.

The owner has made the house available to Help the Aged and it will be used to provide accommodation for 20/25 retired people. There will be a resident warden and meals will be provided. The owner could have continued to live in the house or in one of the cottages on the estate, free of rates, maintenance and insurance costs for life and that of the surviving spouse, in return for making the property available to the Charity.

Help the Aged welcome enquiries from those who are willing to consider such a plan—which can usually be adapted to suit the owner's circumstances. Offers of land for building flats for old people are also appreciated.

An Extra Care Unit to perpetuate the name of someone dear to you and provide lasting help for the Frail and Elderly—£6,000 endows a unit in an existing Help the Aged project.

Send for details, entirely without obligation

Please write to:
The Rt. Hon. Lord Maybray-King,
Help the Aged, Room T2C,
FREEPOST 30, LONDON W1V 7JZ
(No stamp needed)

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Term starts in March and October

SPORT

Stenmark puts on his later than late show

From John Hennessey
St. Anton, Feb 1
Ingemar Stenmark of Sweden, pulled off a stunning World Cup slalom victory even by his own remarkable standards here today. He had become accustomed to his coming from behind to win on the second run, but that seemed beyond even him today. It was only thirteen fastest on the first run and, allowing for one disqualification, he still had to recover 11 places on the second. He did so with 0.12sec to spare over Phil Mahre, one of the American whizzes on the circuit.

The net result was that Stenmark acquired 25 more World Cup points to increase his total at the top to 200. Mahre himself picked up 25 points, 20 from his second place today and five more for winning the combined slalom and downhill. His total is now 168, 25 more than the third placed skier, Peter Müller, downhill specialist who is out of action at the moment because of injury.

The first run in this Arberg-Kandahar competition was unusually close and, for all his humble, even humiliating, position, Stenmark was only a few tenths of a second behind Wolfgang Gruber, a little-known Austrian, and two thirds of a second behind Mahre, the favourite. The second run, however, was a different matter. Stenmark, who had been in the position of being able to add to their haul only by finishing first or second.

Podorski was third, which served no purpose at all. World Cup skiers can count only their five best results and Podorski had already totted up two thirds, each worth 15 points, in addition to his three wins. Both men are in the position of being able to add to their haul only by finishing first or second.

Konrad Bartelski, the lone British challenger, is still not operating his appearance in this company, had another disappointing run to finish 33rd. Afterwards he remarked that he had achieved



Stenmark: had 0.12 seconds to spare after a stunning second run yesterday.

more air time than his father, a reference to a lack of control, at the Kangaroo jump in particular. His father, it needs to be added, is a former K.I. pilot.

SLALOM: 1.1 Stenmark (Sweden), 1min 40.4sec (51.42 and 49.92); 2. Mahre (US), 1min 40.5sec (50.53 and 50.51); 3. Gruber (Austria), 1min 41.6sec (50.71 and 50.89); 4. Müller (Austria), 1min 42.1sec (51.00 and 51.10); 5. Podorski (Austria), 1min 42.2sec (51.00 and 51.20); 6. Bartelski (Great Britain), 1min 42.3sec (51.00 and 51.30); 7. Gruber (Austria), 1min 42.4sec (51.00 and 51.40); 8. Müller (Austria), 1min 42.5sec (51.00 and 51.50); 9. Podorski (Austria), 1min 42.6sec (51.00 and 51.60); 10. Bartelski (Great Britain), 1min 42.7sec (51.00 and 51.70); 11. Gruber (Austria), 1min 42.8sec (51.00 and 51.80); 12. Müller (Austria), 1min 42.9sec (51.00 and 51.90); 13. Podorski (Austria), 1min 43.0sec (51.00 and 52.00); 14. Bartelski (Great Britain), 1min 43.1sec (51.00 and 52.10); 15. Gruber (Austria), 1min 43.2sec (51.00 and 52.20); 16. Müller (Austria), 1min 43.3sec (51.00 and 52.30); 17. Podorski (Austria), 1min 43.4sec (51.00 and 52.40); 18. Bartelski (Great Britain), 1min 43.5sec (51.00 and 52.50); 19. Gruber (Austria), 1min 43.6sec (51.00 and 52.60); 20. Müller (Austria), 1min 43.7sec (51.00 and 52.70); 21. Podorski (Austria), 1min 43.8sec (51.00 and 52.80); 22. Bartelski (Great Britain), 1min 43.9sec (51.00 and 52.90); 23. Gruber (Austria), 1min 44.0sec (51.00 and 53.00); 24. Müller (Austria), 1min 44.1sec (51.00 and 53.10); 25. Podorski (Austria), 1min 44.2sec (51.00 and 53.20); 26. Bartelski (Great Britain), 1min 44.3sec (51.00 and 53.30); 27. Gruber (Austria), 1min 44.4sec (51.00 and 53.40); 28. Müller (Austria), 1min 44.5sec (51.00 and 53.50); 29. Podorski (Austria), 1min 44.6sec (51.00 and 53.60); 30. Bartelski (Great Britain), 1min 44.7sec (51.00 and 53.70); 31. Gruber (Austria), 1min 44.8sec (51.00 and 53.80); 32. Müller (Austria), 1min 44.9sec (51.00 and 53.90); 33. Podorski (Austria), 1min 45.0sec (51.00 and 54.00); 34. Bartelski (Great Britain), 1min 45.1sec (51.00 and 54.10); 35. 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Bartelski (Great Britain), 1min 63.9sec (51.00 and 72.90); 223. Gruber (Austria), 1min 64.0sec (51.00 and 73.00); 224. Müller (Austria), 1min 64.1sec (51.00 and 73.10); 225. Podorski (Austria), 1min 64.2sec (51.00 and 73.20); 226. Bartelski (Great Britain), 1min 64.3sec (51.00 and 73.30); 227. Gruber (Austria), 1min 64.4sec (51.00 and 73.40); 228. Müller (Austria), 1min 64.5sec (51.00 and 73.50); 229. Podorski (Austria), 1min 64.6sec (51.00 and 73.60); 230. Bartelski (Great Britain), 1min 64.7sec (51.00 and 73.70); 231. Gruber (Austria), 1min 64.8sec (51.00 and 73.80); 232. Müller (Austria), 1min 64.9sec (51.00 and 73.90); 233. Podorski (Austria), 1min 65.0sec (51.00 and 74.00); 234. Bartelski (Great Britain), 1min 65.1sec (51.00 and 74.10); 235. Gruber (Austria), 1min 65.2sec (51.00 and 74.20); 236. Müller (Austria), 1min 65.3sec (51.00 and 74.30); 237. Podorski (Austria), 1min 65.4sec (51.00 and 74.40); 238. Bartelski (Great Britain), 1min 65.5sec (51.00 and 74.50); 239. 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Bartelski (Great Britain), 1min 70.7sec (51.00 and 79.70); 291. Gruber (Austria), 1min 70.8sec (51.00 and 79.80); 292. Müller (Austria), 1min 70.9sec (51.00 and 79.90); 293. Podorski (Austria), 1min 71.0sec (51.00 and 80.00); 294. Bartelski (Great Britain), 1min 71.1sec (51.00 and 80.10); 295. Gruber (Austria), 1min 71.2sec (51.00 and 80.20); 296. Müller (Austria), 1min 71.3sec (51.00 and 80.30); 297. Podorski (Austria), 1min 71.4sec (51.00 and 80.40); 298. Bartelski (Great Britain), 1min 71.5sec (51.00 and 80.50); 299. Gruber (Austria), 1min 71.6sec (51.00 and 80.60); 300. Müller (Austria), 1min 71.7sec (51.00 and 80.70); 301. Podorski (Austria), 1min 71.8sec (51.00 and 80.80); 302. Bartelski (Great Britain), 1min 71.9sec (51.00 and 80.90); 303. Gruber (Austria), 1min 72.0sec (51.00 and 81.00); 304. Müller (Austria), 1min 72.1sec (51.00 and 81.10); 305. Podorski (Austria), 1min 72.2sec (51.00 and 81.20); 306. Bartelski (Great Britain), 1min 72.3sec (51.00 and 81.30); 307. Gruber (Austria), 1min 72.4sec (51.00 and 81.40); 308. Müller (Austria), 1min 72.5sec (51.00 and 81.50); 309. Podorski (Austria), 1min 72.6sec (51.00 and 81.60); 310. Bartelski (Great Britain), 1min 72.7sec (51.00 and 81.70); 311. Gruber (Austria), 1min 72.8sec (51.00 and 81.80); 312. Müller (Austria), 1min 72.9sec (51.00 and 81.90); 313. Podorski (Austria), 1min 73.0sec (51.00 and 82.00); 314. Bartelski (Great Britain), 1min 73.1sec (51.00 and 82.10); 315. Gruber (Austria), 1min 73.2sec (51.00 and 82.20); 316. Müller (Austria), 1min 73.3sec (51.00 and 82.30); 317. Podorski (Austria), 1min 73.4sec (51.00 and 82.40); 318. Bartelski (Great Britain), 1min 73.5sec (51.00 and 82.50); 319. Gruber (Austria), 1min 73.6sec (51.00 and 82.60); 320. Müller (Austria), 1min 73.7sec (51.00 and 82.70); 321. Podorski (Austria), 1min 73.8sec (51.00 and 82.80); 322. Bartelski (Great Britain), 1min 73.9sec (51.00 and 82.90); 323. Gruber (Austria), 1min 74.0sec (51.00 and 83.00); 324. 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THE ARTS

The Massacre at Paris Citizens' Glasgow

Ned Chaillet

The faults in *The Massacre at Paris* are almost all Christopher Marlowe's, or the fault of the original corrupter of the text, perhaps the printer who put it into type. It might be worth asking why Philip Prowse chose to revive the ragged thing in what seems to be the first British production in centuries, but Mr Prowse, as usual, answers the question through his staging. Even the minor jottings of a great playwright are worth considering and Mr Prowse seems to have considered exactly why Marlowe bothered to jot. If ever a play was written with a purpose and not inspiration, *The Massacre* would seem to be it.

Whether Mr Prowse is right about Marlowe's purpose is arguable. The staging is nonetheless an ingenious and convincing suggestion. They are simulated Elizabethan actors who enter the stage from the stalls at the beginning of the performance, as if the audience were backstage, though the warm-up exercises of potentially tongue-twisters belong more to the present Elizabethan age than the first.

When the traverse curtain at the back of the Citizens' stage is pulled open, the real audience is revealed as the single spectator, Queen Elizabeth I, about to witness a loyal play violent in its attack on Roman Catholicism and vehement in its support for royalty in its struggle against Rome. The bloodletting, based on the Bartholomew's Day Massacre, could flood the stage and is instead, hastily, often cut off, executed by a handful of actors who are forced rapidly to change their costumes.

A beautiful design by Mr Prowse flows from the top of the stage past the proscenium into the audience and the small cast, including a few cheap dummies which serve as plentiful corpses. While the production is slavish in textual fidelity, the writing presumably being corrupt enough for the Citizens' tastes, the rough telling of the story of the Duke of Guise, uncannily provides acting difficulties, not all of which are met. Robert Glynn, as Guise, is more subtle playing his brothers. But Jill Spurrier, as male or female, queen or monk, is splendid.

Wise, come to think of it, and oddly ironic, the production dispatches the play with mercy. It is to chase away the society girl who has seduced him, telling her: "I'm always acting, watching myself go by." When making love to the wife of a close friend, he quotes the sweet nothings from one of his roles.

Mr Sinden grasps the part more like an Irving than a Coward, and the agonies of the third act, when he unravels the farcical complications with exasperation at the sexual intrigues, move him to suggest the postures of a theatrical print of Macready. He is outlandishly theatrical, arms thrown out in despair, and he is immensely watchable down to the quiver of his jaws.

Alan Strachan has arranged the action around Mr Sinden with care and even the wild extravagances of the mad young playwright, played with sinister energy by Julian Fellowes, find their punch lines in the irritated responses of Mr Sinden. Coward Watford brings an affectionate tolerance to the role of the secretary, but there is a slackness in the relationship with his ex-wife.

The fault is not in Dinah Sheridan's presence, but in the language of her attitude. She often seems an audience rather than a force and varies between secretarial poise, wifely amusement, and motherly concern. But with the intensity of Mr Sinden's performance something more active is required.

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Involve vocal soloists and chorus, and at first he accompanied them with full orchestra. He was in the throes of a creative metamorphosis; as he passed through it, the orchestra was dropped in favour of assorted keyboard instruments and percussion, eventually becoming the four pianos plus kitchen that you will hear if you go to the revival of the ballet currently at Covent Garden.

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A voice from the past in a man of today

To a teenaged record-collector in the early 1940s the name of Gerhard Hüsch was to be conjured with. He was an ideal Papageno in the complete *Zauberflöte* conducted by Beecham; when we looked for the song-cycles of Schubert and Schumann, we could only turn to the records by Hüsch and Hans J. Müller—and gladly we did so, for warm, refinement and noble singing. Some enterprising cousins had a volume of songs by the Finnish composer Yrjö Kilpinen, and there, too, Gerhard Hüsch was the persuasive singer.

Our elders remembered with ecstasy the performances at Covent Garden in 1930 of *Die Fledermaus* conducted by Bruno Walter, with a starry cast led by Lotte Lehmann, Elisabeth Schumann and as Dr Falke (the title part), Hüsch. Wagnerites spoke about a *Tannhäuser* at Bayreuth, conducted by Toscanini, in which Hüsch and Herbert Janssen alternated as Wolfram.

Today Hüsch is 80 years old, a sprightly, energetic veteran, brisk walker, spirited conversationalist, enthusiast for physical fitness, and much sought after as vocal coach and singer in London, Munich (where he lives) and his French-born wife and her mother, and shortly in Paris as well. I sought him out, not only to congratulate him on the birthday—which I formally did here, on behalf of his many British admirers ("good old 120", as they say in Hungary)—but to learn more about those years, as singer and teacher which reference books do not mention.

Where was he during the Second World War? "I was commuting between Berlin and Munich, mostly on unheated trains in the middle of the night, during an air-raid with buildings burning in the big towns. My operatic work at the Berlin Staatsoper had been interrupted in 1935, when I had trouble with the Nazis who said I was not to appear at the opera. Fortunately Felix von Krauss's post as singing teacher in Munich fell vacant, and was given to me, so that I was busy there in 1937. Beecham wanted me as Papageno for his recording of *Die Zauberflöte*, and at the same time the Nazi Gauleiter of Berlin also commanded a performance of the same opera, and specified that I was to be the Papageno. So the Staatsoper took me back, and I sang there until September 1944 when



Photograph by Harry Kerr

Goebbels shut down all theatres. Thanks to my teaching post I was not allowed to be drafted into the army."

When the war ended Hüsch had to face a denazification court. "Another singer was jealous of my Munich job, so he told the occupation forces I had been a prominent Nazi. It was easy for me to prove the contrary, but it took time, and I was a little disillusioned. So I accepted an invitation to sing and teach in Japan, the first European musician to work there since 1939.

"First I sang Wolfram, in German, while the rest of the cast sang in Japanese (it's a good language for singing). Then a Japanese bass, well-known as the Commendatore, wanted to appear as Leporello, so I sang Don Giovanni, again in German. My Leporello forgot his part, the new Commendatore was struck dumb with fear, and in the Cemetery Scene I had to sing all three vocal parts, but not in Japanese!

"When we came back to Germany from Japan, Mrs Hüsch persuaded me to give up singing while my voice was still good. I'm happy that I did so. I don't want people to think of Hüsch as a singer who went on singing when his voice was growing old."

Hüsch teaches singing as it was taught to him. "As a boy singer in Hanover, I often filled in at concerts; at one of them the singer I was replacing arrived after all, heard me and persuaded my father that I should study singing seriously. He took me to three teachers in Berlin: two said I would be on stage within a year, the third wanted me to study for three years before learning a role. I told my father this last teacher was money-grubbing; but that was the one my father trusted, and he was right."

"Hans Emge's father was the first *Positron de Longueville* in the *Les Femmes de Paris* opera. He got the part because he also played the trumpet; in her sexless marriage, and it supplies one obviously stage-worthy episode in the uneventful chronicle of writing, publishing, and party going. But it does not earn the crucial marriage, followed by her own virgin Clive brought with stationary eyes like an oyster."

This by no means exhausts the variety of the performance, which also touches moods of spontaneous fun, and exclusive bitterness, as when she conducts an imaginary interview with a journalist she has shown the door: "The subject of her writing was the little world of people like herself, a small class, a dying class."

But whatever its explorations, it always reverts to the central mood of unexplained anguish, unavoidably dictated by the text and extremely hard to take in the compressed phrase-making dialogue where every word clearly is an unusually gifted Rossinian. The overture, after an unsure start, had real verve and plenty of tension, too; and the whole evening was distinguished by his light spring rhythms, his confident pacing and timing, his nice shaping of Rossini's crescendos, his precise control over articulation. There was tidy playing from the strings, and shapely woodwind solo work.

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more important for me, he was taught singing by an Italian from Padua. There you studied technique for three years before you learnt to sing with words. The vocal instrument must be able to do everything in vocalization before it is ready to think about words, and their place in singing.

"Today singers pay so much attention to the text, especially in the German *Lied*, that the voice as a musical instrument is placed second; that isn't singing. Also they're in such a hurry to earn big money that they take leading roles in large opera houses, and overstretch their vocal capacity, before they're ready. That's why there isn't a sizeable generation of good young opera singers in Germany at present."

"I was taught all this, though I had to prove it for myself by making mistakes. For my first audition I went to Berlin, where I was fortunately turned down and sent home to Hanover. There they had just filled the vacancy I was applying for, so I made my debut in

consequence. After a year I was engaged in Hanover where one colleague teased me about my small voice. As a result I took to forcing top notes for easy effect, and it was seven years before I was cured of that ailment and learned to relax when singing high baritone music. Only then did I get a job in Berlin."

"All the same, I kept to the roles that didn't strain my voice. The Prologue in *Pagliacci* was too risky, so I stayed with Silvio, and didn't attempt *Taddeo*. I refused *Rigoletto* (though I recorded some of the part) because I knew that would lead to *Amonasso*, *Iago* and a quick vocal decline. When Siegfried Wagner booked both Janssen and me for the 1930 *Tannhäuser*, he offered me *Amfortas* instead, and I refused, knowing that Sachs would follow, and be heavy for me, not to speak of *Wotan*.

"Mozart's *Giovanni* and *Almaviva*, and *Papageno*, were my parts, and Verdi's *Luna*, and other light German parts, in *Lorzing*, for example. From the first I was singing German *Lieder*, they should come before learning a role in opera. Opera-singers who take up *Lieder* afterwards don't sound at home. The frame is smaller, and the music is more naturally, not as a shrinking of limits."

Gerhard Hüsch is so genial a companion, so full of ardour in expounding his love of music, that the firmness of his views is a surprise. What he talks about he has experienced for himself, and he is all praise for his pupils. He taught for three years at the University of Indiana during the 1950s, and has mixed memories of that ambitious supermarket training ground in a wilderness. "The pupils had talent," he admits. Were they his best? No, the Japanese, who had much natural gift for singing, an overpowering wish to master European music, which they loved and they were the hardest workers."

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Books

Words of the wise

Set a lexicographer to catch a lexicographer, for he knows his little ways, his difficulties, and his professional tricks of the trade. Robert Burchfield, chief editor of the Oxford dictionary, has been doing fruitful research into the lexicographical idiosyncrasy of his great predecessor, Dictionary Johnson. He told a recent meeting of the Johnson Society about it.

Dictionary-makers may seem impersonal. In fact, inevitably they conceal personal experience, direct observation, and subjective choices. Dr Burchfield's work discovers Johnson's attitudes to slavery, to brewing terms, and to quotations from his own work in his Dictionary.

It is well known that Johnson acquired a young black slave called Francis, or Frank, Barber. The boy had been born a slave in Jamaica and had been brought to England in 1750 by his master, Colonel Richard Bathurst. He joined Johnson's household in 1752, after Terry's death and at about the same time as the blind poetess Anna Williams, when he was only 10 years old. Frank became a symbol of Johnson's lifelong hatred of race prejudice and unfairness to other races. Dr Burchfield has been detecting the influence of Frank in Johnson's definitions of words to do with blackness and slavery in the Dictionary.

Compare the relative restraint of his definitions compared with those of Scott's revision (1764) of Nathan Bailey's dictionary, from which Johnson's Dictionary is derived. Slave, Dr Johnson: one mancipulated to a master; not a freeman; a dependant.

Scott/Bailey: a perpetual servant, a drudge. Savage, Dr Johnson: a man untamed and uncivilized; a barbarian. Scott/Bailey: a wild Indian, or barbarian, having no fixed habitation, religion, law or policy. Bailey included the contemporary and well-established word *pickaninny*. It is not in Johnson's Dictionary. Dr Burchfield's abundance of words to do with blackness and slavery, and Johnson's illustrative examples and his definitions are surprisingly neutral and unprejudiced.

He detects a significant change in Johnson's treatment

of brewing terms. In the first edition of the Dictionary the terms of the brewing trade are predominantly drawn from and illustrated by examples from John Mortimer's *Manual of Husbandry* (1707) and from a small number of other standard works. Johnson had to rely on such works for information, and did so in a routinely systematic way. By 1772, however, he had been called on by Hester Thrale to help her with the managing of the Thrales' brewing business. It can hardly be coincidence that the definitions of some of the brewing terms were subtly improved in the fourth edition of the Dictionary, published the following year.

Compare the following: 1755 gill: a measure of liquids containing the fourth part of a pint. 1773 gill: repeated, but with the qualification "in the northern counties it is half a pint of liquid measure". 1755 hoghead: a measure of liquids containing 60 gallons. 1773 hoghead: a measure of liquids containing 63 gallons. 1755 strike: a bushel, a dry measure of capacity. 1773 strike: a bushel, a dry measure of capacity; four pecks.

Finally Dr Burchfield suggests that the six endearing amanuenses named by Boswell as working at one time or another with Johnson on the Dictionary in fact did a great deal more than just copy out quotations marked by Johnson, as has been supposed since Boswell. Johnsonian scholars may greatly underestimate the part they played in the Dictionary, especially the Englishman V. J. Peyton (who taught French), and Alexander Macbean who, according to Johnson, knew several languages but nothing of life. The amanuenses may have been responsible for some of the quotations wrongly attributed in the Dictionary to Johnson himself.

They collected 240,000 quotations altogether, of which 14,000 appear in Johnson's Dictionary of 1755. Mr V. J. Hayes, a former headmaster, has worked part-time for Dr Burchfield as an amanuensis for several years. He copies at a rate that would yield 50,000 quotations, he worked 40 hours a week in a year of 50 weeks.

Philip Howard

Present Laughter Greenwich

Ned Chaillet

Ego-proof acting parts are hard to come by, but who better to provide them than Noël Coward? Gary Essendine in *Present Laughter* is one of the most self-regarding para-egos written, a role largely immune to the twinkling little satellites of the other characters who are brought in for a joke, a scene or a havana. The last time I saw the play it starred Peter O'Toole, lately of the *Old Vic*, and it was just the sort of role to accommodate his present style and eccentric timing, his remote, amused interest in the proceedings.

Essendine is the spider who occasionally steps on the web where other characters are buzzing like trapped flies, fascinated and aggravated by Essendine's presence. Because the character is meant to be a star of romantic comedy, ruthless in the ways of sex, friendship, and love, it takes an actor who can exude vanity and self-absorption to play the role. Donald Sinden, who knows how to exude for effect, how to concentrate entirely on his worries and take advantage of the adulation of friends and fans.

The problems that Coward provides are tricky enough to attract Essendine's attention, much of the play even if his main instinct is to disregard the people in the problems. Essendine performs, with lovers ex-wife, secretary, and friends, and even acknowledges that he is performing. He uses his

trickiness to chase away the society girl who has seduced him, telling her: "I'm always acting, watching myself go by." When making love to the wife of a close friend, he quotes the sweet nothings from one of his roles.

Mr Sinden grasps the part more like an Irving than a Coward, and the agonies of the third act, when he unravels the farcical complications with exasperation at the sexual intrigues, move him to suggest the postures of a theatrical print of Macready. He is outlandishly theatrical, arms thrown out in despair, and he is immensely watchable down to the quiver of his jaws.

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Virginia Theatre Royal, Haymarket

Irving Wardle

"You could write her, anybody could," Edna O'Brien told an interviewer last week. "There could be 50 plays about her." I take this to mean that the ever increasing mountain of letters, diaries, and memoirs of the Bloomsbury Circle down to last week's addition from Frances Parridge is such that the ill as intending playwright need do is to take his pick.

It would be hard to think of two more different plays than Peter Luke's *Bloomsbury* (the West End's last tribute to the subject) and Miss O'Brien's *Virginia*; the first a colorful roundup of the celebrities to uninformal spectators, the second an intimate portrait of Mrs Woolf for people who can snap up every glancing reference to Nessie, Clive, Lytton, and Suffragette in servant, it seemed, and do not need to be told that she wrote books or operated a printing press.

How much of the text is O'Brien and how much subtitled out of the heroine's indecipherable day-day self-observations, is beyond me to disentangle; but the shape of the piece unmistakably points to its authorship. It tells the story of a fragile, doomed, haunted personality, briefly coming into flower under the warming rays of an illicit love affair.

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"Mozart's *Giovanni* and *Almaviva*, and *Papageno*, were my parts, and Verdi's *Luna*, and other light German parts, in *Lorzing*, for example. From the first I was singing German *Lieder*, they should come before learning a role in opera. Opera-singers who take up *Lieder* afterwards don't sound at home. The frame is smaller, and the music is more naturally, not as a shrinking of limits."

Gerhard Hüsch is so genial a companion, so full of ardour in expounding his love of music, that the firmness of his views is a surprise. What he talks about he has experienced for himself, and he is all praise for his pupils. He taught for three years at the University of Indiana during the 1950s, and has mixed memories of that ambitious supermarket training ground in a wilderness. "The pupils had talent," he admits. Were they his best? No, the Japanese, who had much natural gift for singing, an overpowering wish to master European music, which they loved and they were the hardest workers."

He is still working on a new scheme for training singers in Germany, and expanding his catchment in London and Paris. It was difficult to make him talk about his past, as he loved and he was very happy to be in the present.

William Mann

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William Mann

Cinderella Coliseum

Stanley Sadie

There is a charming touch of the chic about Roger Bustin's set for Rossini's *Cinderella*: a round white structure which, facing one way, is Don Magnifico's living room and, facing the other, a chamber in Don Ramiro's palace. Its coolness, its neatness, its wit and its sheer efficiency make it especially apt to this particular opera.

The set was originally designed for an English Music Theatre production, of which Colin Graham had charge; last year the production was taken over by the English National Opera, and it is one of their happiest. At Friday's revival, it was conducted by Stephen Barlow, who clearly is an unusually gifted Rossinian. The overture, after an unsure start, had real verve and plenty of tension, too; and the whole evening was distinguished by his light spring rhythms, his confident pacing and timing, his nice shaping of Rossini's crescendos, his precise control over articulation. There was tidy playing from the strings, and shapely woodwind solo work.

The sole newcomer to the

ing for, so I made my debut in consequence. After a year I was engaged in Hanover where one colleague teased me about my small voice. As a result I took to forcing top notes for easy effect, and it was seven years before I was cured of that ailment and learned to relax when singing high baritone music. Only then did I get a job in Berlin."

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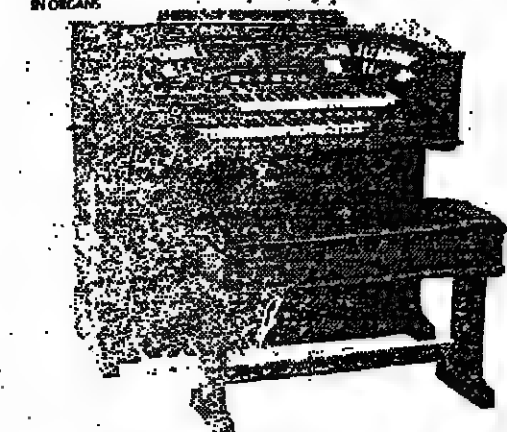
cast was Thomas Hemsley, who offers a Don Magnifico more interesting than most, not just a traditional caricature of a testy old man, but a realistic imperfection with as much depth of character, especially in his cruel streak, as Rossini will allow. His gait on stage, his range of facial expression, his fussiness—not to mention his fruitily singing or especially his command of the words (and when he sings them, why to half-speak them)—make this a happily polished reading.

A SPECIAL REPORT

KEYBOARD INSTRUMENTS



Gulbransen



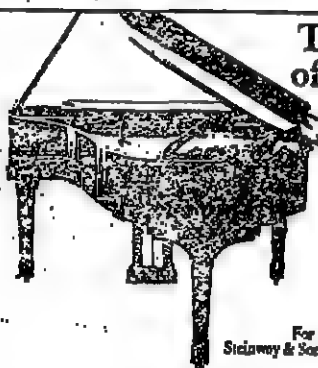
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For two centuries and more
the piano has been the
great midwife of music,
essential to the work not
only of professional per-
formers but also of con-
ductors, scholars, composers
and teachers. String players
may be able to survive with-
out gaining any skill on it,
but they will have to give
up the amount of time they
devote to their own instru-
ments—but otherwise learn-
ing the piano must be the
first step towards becoming
a musician. It is heartening,
therefore, that in the piano
world there are so many
signs of vigour, enthusiasm
and growth.

This is especially remark-
able at a time when, so it
seems, no High Street is
complete without its
emporium stacked with
monstrous electronic organs.
Happily the piano retains
its primacy, as it must do if
we are to remain concerned
with music and not with
mere playing-by-numbers.

That is not to say, though,
that there is no room for
alternatives. Indeed,
increasing numbers of people
are discovering the attrac-
tions of the piano's an-
cestors, the clavichord,
the harpsichord, the forte-
piano and their relatives, all
of which can be had in
modestly priced modern
reproductions. And the real
organ, the king of instru-
ments, keeps its dedicated
band of subjects in thrall.

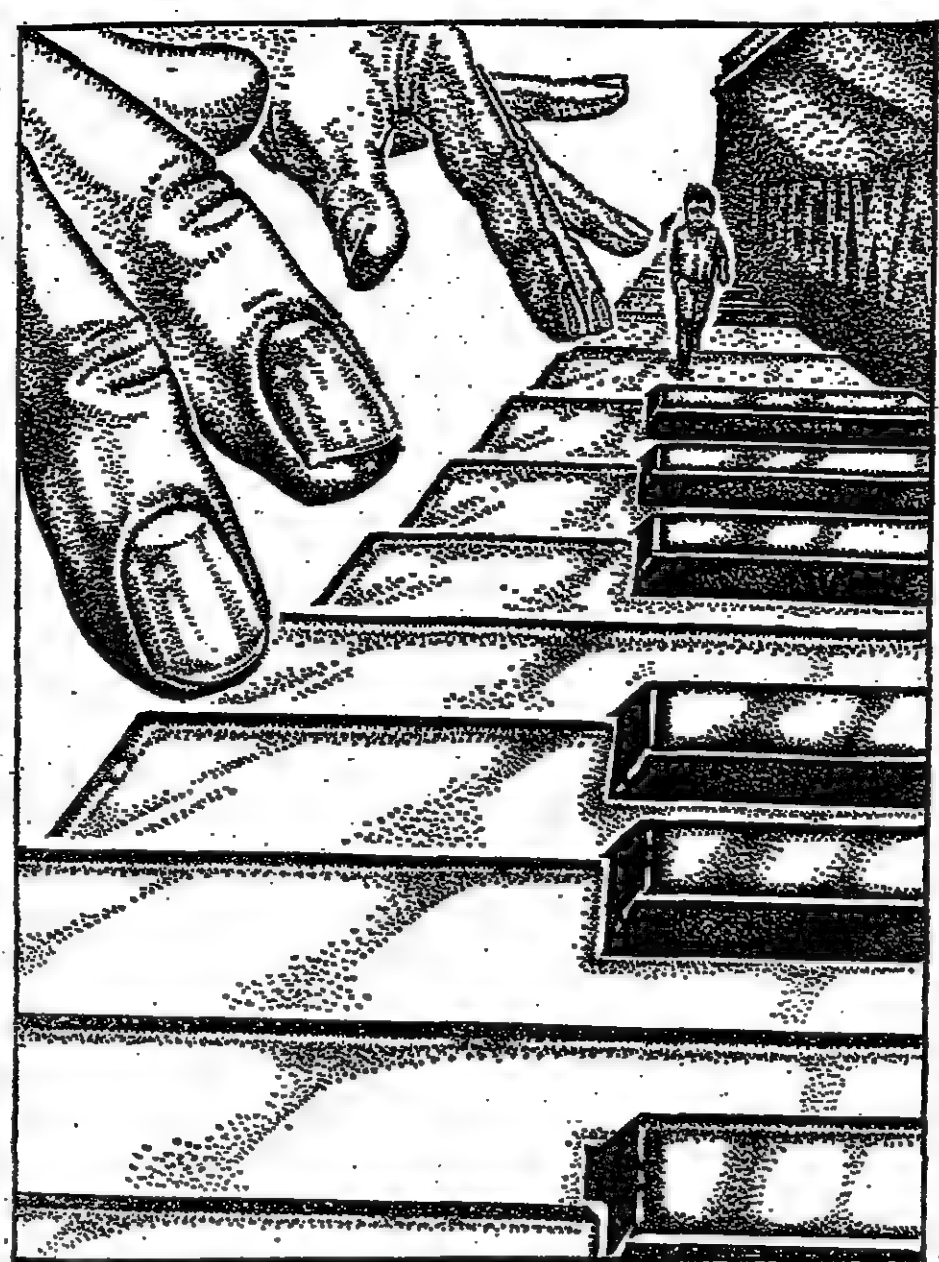
If one wants evidence of
the development of key-
board playing in Britain,
then one need look no fur-
ther than the statistics
published by the Associated
Board of the Royal Schools
of Music, whose exami-
nations are used by most
teachers and budding musi-
cians as a yardstick. There
are no AB exams in
"early" instruments—the
implicit view is, rightly,
that children should be started
on the piano, then investi-
gate historical keyboards
later if they wish—and the
population of young
organists seems to be
fairly constant, but the
numbers of entrants for the
piano examination are in-
creasing markedly.

To take just one example,
the number entering for the
most elementary exam,
grade I, jumped from just
under 25,000 in 1975 to
nearly 39,000 in 1979, the
last year for which figures
are available. That is an in-
crease of roughly 56 per
cent in four years, some-
thing far different in scale
from any change in the popu-
lation during that time.

And in the other lower
grades the growth has been
hardly less astonishing, sug-
gesting an extraordinary
push to the keyboard among
children roughly from eight
to 13.

Why should this have
happened and, as all the
signs indicate, be contin-
uing? No doubt some of the
reasons may be due to those
local authorities which have
encouraged their young
pianists, whether by making
provision for lessons in
school, by paying in part or
in whole for private lessons,
and generally by presenting
music as a live, engaging
subject.

It would be said if any of
this good work were to be
lost. But if local government
is to be less generous it is
certain that the torch will
continue to be carried for-
ward by the profession of
private teachers, among
whom it is possible to



Gerry Graess

detect a burgeoning of opti-
mism and energy.
To some extent this is
due to the emergence from
the music colleges of a
generation of young people
dedicated to private teach-
ing. One of the criticisms of
the Gulbenkian report on
music education, published
four years ago, was that col-
leges tended to provide
training for schoolteachers
but not for those working at
home; this is now begin-
ning to change.

Moreover, the new, pro-
fessional teacher is not
afraid to charge a profes-
sional fee, nor are parents
averse to paying more for
teachers who show drive
and have some understand-
ing of how to guide
children towards skill and
enjoyment.

The rising standards in
music teaching must also be
attributed in part to the
work of the professional
associations, the incor-
porated Society of Musi-
cians and the European
Piano Teachers' Association.
The latter has been running
for only three years but has
already done much through
its journal and its meetings
to give teachers information

and support. Rising stand-
ards here inevitably lead to
rising standards among
pupils: of those 39,000 who
took grade I in 1979, more
than 12 per cent passed
with distinction, compared
with less than 9 per cent in
1975.

It will be some years
before those taking grade I
in the late 1970s are knock-
ing on the door of the
Royal Academy of Music, but
even now there seems to be a
constant gradual rise in the
standards of applicants
reaching the colleges. This
in turn is reflected in the
growing ranks of British key-
board artists of interna-
tional standing.

For every Curzon or Lyn-
pany of the older genera-
tion there are a dozen out-
standing pianists in their
thirties and forties, and
Britain can also boast some
of the world's leading
specialists in early keyboard
instruments, like Chris-
topher Hogwood and Trevor
Pinnock, as well as the for-
midable organists who have
always been its blessing.
Yet it would be wrong to
suppose that a nation's
continued on facing page

Nest of pipes that's a work of art...

Britain's market for pipe
organs, once almost exclu-
sively churches and concert
halls, has widened over the
years. Universities and
schools are now among the
builders' clients, and some
instruments are bought for
private music rooms.

This is one reason for a
growth in demand. In their
two volumes on *The Classical
Organ in Britain*, published
by Positiv Press, John F.
Rowntree and John F. Bren-
nan point out that while 118
new organs with mechanical
action were bought in the 19
years up to 1974, in the next
four years 106 were supplied.
But it is fair to say that
while the market has grown,
clients have been buying
smaller instruments than in
the past. This partly reflects
rising costs, particularly
heavy in an industry which
requires hand craftsmanship
and scarce materials, such as
seasoned hardwood, ivory
and metal alloys.

Many British firms belong
to the Federation of Master
Organ Builders, but some do
not. A number have been
in business for decades, but
it tends to be a changing
scene, with large firms buy-
ing up smaller concerns, and
young men setting up their
own companies.

Change has been accentu-
ated by the requirements of
churches with unconven-
tional shapes, and of living
in the modern vernacular.
There is also the taste for the
classical revival sound. As
one builder put it, the roast
beef of nineteenth-century
English organs has been
replaced with instruments
more suitable for playing
Bach.

This evolution has encour-
aged imports from con-
tinental countries, and the
head of a London firm said:
"I think the import flow has
eased up. We export quite a
lot." He thought the intro-
duction of the cinema organ
had adversely affected

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British pipe organ manu-
facture between the wars.
Modern church organs
face one hazard that those of
former days did not—heating
geared to energy saving.
Systems which blast out
warm air for a short period
while worshippers are at
their devotions, then switch
off sharply, cause a good
deal of condensation and
damage to metalwork.

But in another way build-
ers find life is now easier for
them. Many old organs were
placed in corners where they
may have looked elegant but
were difficult to play and
the working parts were in-
accessible to the craftsmen
called in to carry out repairs.

Organists have more say
in the placing now. As one
commented, it should
always be remembered the
organ is a musical instru-
ment as well as a work of art.

Patrick O'Leary

...and an organ that's almost automatic

There are those unkind
enough to say an electronic
organ is the ideal gift for a
man who does not like
music. To which retailers
retort that £60m a year tinkle
through the tills is a hit
tune in anybody's chart. Un-
fortunately, that is the figure
for sales in 1979, and indica-
tions are that the outcome
for last year will be sharply
lower—one estimate is £36m.

However, it is still a busi-
ness which has come a long
way in a short time, buoyed
up by enthusiastic promo-
tion. Anyone leafing through
the magazines *Organ Player*
and *Home Organist* will find
test runs of the newest key-
boards whose language rivals
that of motoring correspon-
dents. The similarity is
evident with more than 40
firms competing for an
annual market of 25,000 elec-
tronic organs and related
units. British production is
outpaced by imports from
Japan, America and Italy.

One instrument, I read,
has "all in all, a nice set
of automatics", while
another is praised for its
synthesizer and auto arpeg-
gio section. In a third, "the
accordion has a slight delay
in build-up to simulate the
slow attack of a reed".
The road-test analogy
reached its peak with one
new model, described as
easier to drive than many
organs now on sale. It is
possible for the do-it-your-
selfer to build an organ,
although tinkering with
anything electrical is not
recommended for people
who are not absolutely sure
what they are doing.

But the basic appeal of the
electronic organ is not its
association with the car,
not even the portable which
will run off a battery.
People buy one because they
like the sound it makes.
Incidentally, if you have
neighbours who do not like
the sound, there are models
fitted with earphones.

There is also the advantage
of being able to make recog-
nizable noises without years
of practice. "You can play
a little tune in about half an
hour", a salesman said.
Mr L. S. Long, secretary of
the Federation of Organ
Clubs, said: "I know of
people in their 80s who have
started to learn, as well as
the very young. The old idea
of family entertainment
where someone used to play
the piano in the parlour has
come back, but now every-
one can join in".

It is believed there are
about 350 electronic organ
societies of one kind or
other in Britain. Some are
devoted to the preservation
of cinema organs.
As with pipe organs, part
of the appeal is the variety
and volume of accompani-
ment that can be married to
even a one-finger exercise.
A manufacturer advertises
choice of gadgets which will
add the effects of a cathedral
choir or a big band at a
touch.

Controversy still simmers
over whether electronic
organs are suitable for
church music. A trade as-
sociation spokesman assured
me that church authorities
were getting over the
bias against them, while
an organist asserted that
churches which had elec-
tronic organs were redis-
covering their bias against
them.

Perhaps the last word
should be given to the man
who sold one to the Caldy
Island monastery in Carmar-
then Bay. This involved a
five-mile voyage on the deck
of a small ship, and on the
island the journey continued
in a trailer drawn by a farm
tractor.

Such hard-sell may have
been a case of needs must
when the devil drives. The
supplier was quoted as say-
ing: "The monks wanted to
replace their old single-
manual organ which had
given up the ghost".

P. O'L

Cheap foreign imports challenge British piano makers

Cheaper imports from for-
eign manufacturers are
increasingly challenging
British piano makers in
their home market. In the
first nine months of 1980
imports took 51 per cent of
sales in the United King-
dom. Most of these instru-
ments are uprisings from
makers in Eastern Europe
and countries like South
Korea, Taiwan, China, Brazil
and even the United States.

This import penetration
comes at a time of falling
demand. The British indus-
try estimates that the market
was down about 29 per cent
in the first nine months of
last year compared with the
similar period in 1979. But
during this time imports fell
by only 10 per cent so that
their share rose from 40 to
51 per cent.

British manufacturers say
that pianos from such areas
as Eastern Europe are being
sold in Britain for little more
than the cost of the raw
materials used to produce
them. While the retail price
of the least expensive British
upright is about £1,000 to
£1,200, an imported piano
can be bought for about £800
to £900.

The worries of British
makers, who produce about
20,000 pianos a year, are
shared by those elsewhere in
Western Europe, and the in-
dustry in the European Eco-
nomic Community has com-
plained to the EEC Commis-
sion about competition from
the Eastern block. The Brit-
ish and continental compa-
nies are particularly con-
cerned about imports from
East Germany and Poland,
not only because of the dif-
ference in prices, but also
because Western producers
do not have compensating
outlets in the East.

Complaints about East
Germany must be put into
perspective. "Leipzig is the
home of the famous firm of
Blüthner. One leading Brit-
ish expert described the
standard of lesser East Ger-
man models as "quite fair",
but he referred to the over-
all quality of pianos from
South Korea, Taiwan and
China as "scarcely ade-
quate". Another specialist
agreed that technically such
instruments could be im-
proved, but he thought that
a buyer was not necessarily
failing to get value for what
he paid.

There is also concern
about cheap American pianos
coming into Britain. One
sales director said that
while allegations of cheap
Mexican labour being em-
ployed had not been con-
firmed, there were grounds
for suspecting American
pianos were being dumped
in Britain. Imported up-
rights from the United States
were selling at £800 or £900.

Another anxiety is about
the absence of country-of-
origin markings on some im-
ported pianos. This means
that a South Korean product
with a German-sounding
name can be imported into
Britain through Holland
and there is nothing to tell
a potential customer that he
is not looking at a German
model.

One complaint is that
many pianos which are gen-
uinely German come from
East Germany, and a mem-
ber of the public may imag-
ine they are from the high-
quality manufacturers in the
Federal Republic. Some
cheap imports carry the
name of their country of
origin, but the British are
lobbying the Government to
tighten identification.

Japanese imports do not
involve the cheaper end of
the market. The popularity
of western music in Japan is
now so great that the bulk
of production is absorbed
domestically. The demand
for Yamahas in the United
Kingdom is greater than the
annual import figure of
about 600 or 700.

While some months have
shown an improvement in
the market since the autumn,
the British piano makers
face a number of problems
other than the threat of
cheap imports. More than
half British production nor-
mally goes for export and two-
thirds of this to the rest of
the EEC. West Germany has
been the best overall mar-
ket.

But the exchange rate is
creating difficulties for sales
in West Germany, and it has
narrowed the traditional gap
between the retail prices of
German uprisings and similar
local pianos in the British
market.

This suggests that competi-
tion may sharpen in the

middle market at home and
in Europe. One British
manufacturer estimated that
the effect of the exchange
rate and normal price in-
creases meant that their
costs were 24 per cent
higher than their competi-
tors in France and Germany.
If it were not for the high
pound, there would be no
problems at selling on the
Continental.

Some Japanese uprisings
are several hundred pounds
cheaper in the United King-
dom than similar British in-
struments, again partly as a
result of the exchange rate.

There has been some
rationalization of production
in Britain. John Broadwood
and Sons, which has made
pianos since 1728 and whose
instruments were admired by
Chopin, Haydn, Beethoven
and Chopin, now has its up-
rights made under licence
by Kemble. Finding its
works too small, Broadwood
says that this arrangement
enables it to increase pro-
duction levels and maintain
quality.

It continues to make its
own grands to order. Its in-
struments have never been
produced for stock, and it
says that demand has always
outstripped production.

Two firms, Zender and
Rogers, closed last year and
their pianos are now pro-
duced under licence by
Barratt and Robinson, which
some years ago took over
Challen.

There would be more
secondhand pianos on the
British market if fewer were
not exported. Last year
Britain sent 20,000 pianos
abroad, but only 11,000 of
these were new. The older
instruments go to countries
like France and Italy.

Some tastes change. The
baby grand, which makes
interior music to a good
upright, has gone out of
fashion. Adults are not
less inhibited about taking
up the piano again or even
learning from scratch. The
enthusiasm for taking exami-
nations, however, shows no
sign of abating, and sales
suggest a strong fidelity to
the piano. Pianists are not
easily tempted by such
gadgets as electronic organs.

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on all the
subjects that matter.

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KEYBOARD INSTRUMENTS

Boom in antiques and reproductions

One feature of the early music boom of the past 15 years has been the enormous growth in the market for antique and reproduction keyboard instruments. Sadly, this has meant the passing of the days when you could pick up an eighteenth-century square piano for a song, but it has also brought into business a great variety of makers producing instruments of all kinds, from fine copies for professional players to fairly elementary kits that need only a modicum of skill to assemble.

The first thing to decide, obviously, is what kind of instrument you want. One of the most popular is the clavichord, readily available from many of the larger manufacturers in kits or finished form, and particularly easy to assemble, being a box-shaped instrument of simple construction and coffee-table size. The clavichord has a type of action all its own, with strings touched by "tangents", and this gives it a

soft, clear sound that was especially admired by Bach. It is indeed, an enchanting instrument for much of his keyboard music, but not really for a great deal else, which is fine if you are happy playing preludes and fugues in pearly tones that sound perfectly at home in a small drawing room.

For greater versatility one must turn to the harpsichord and its two smaller cousins, the spinet and the virginal, all of which have plucked strings and are a little more complicated to build from kits. These are available for the handy person, but ordinary mortals might be better advised to go for the finished article, happily available in a variety of price ranges. One problem with these instruments, and also with the clavichord, is that they go out of tune more readily than does the piano, which may cause problems if you live in a noisy area and do not feel able to tune your instrument yourself (though in fact this is not

difficult in the case of small instruments).

The harpsichord was the standard domestic keyboard instrument throughout most of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, and its repertoire is vast, from Frescobaldi through Bach, Scarlatti and the French clavierists to Haydn. But it is quite possible to play most of this music also on a baby harpsichord, or on the virginal, an obvious cousin, despite the latter instrument's special association with Elizabethan English music. Moreover, these smaller instruments are not only generally cheaper but also more appropriate in terms of size and sound quality, for smaller rooms.

One last group of instruments to be considered is the early piano family. Square pianos are still available at auction at £200-£300, but if you want an instrument that works you will have to spend very much more than that on restoration. Wing-shaped instruments of the eighteenth and

Consumers' guide to purchase and maintenance

Pianos

New

Prices for uprights range from about £800 for a Polish Logica to more than £5,000 for a Steinway or Bechstein. For grands, from about £2,600 for an East German Zimmerman to nearly £23,000 for a Bösendorfer Imperial concert grand.

Secondhand

Approach buying a piano as you would a car, Mr Peter Roberts of The Piano House, in London, says. "Remember that it is a machine, not a piece of furniture." Avoid wooden-frame pianos, which will not stay in tune, and straight-strung instruments, where the strings run parallel to each other, as opposed to overstrung ones, where the bass strings cross over the treble.

If buying from a piano shop you should expect that the piano has been reconditioned and you should be offered a guarantee. The Piano House prices are from £400 to £2,000 for an overstrung upright and from £800 to £10,000 for a grand. Many piano shops have sales in January and at one or two other times in the year.

It is in doubt about the quality of an instrument when buying privately, seek expert advice from a piano dealer or tuner. The fee for this is normally £7, as well as travelling costs.

Hiring

The cost of hiring is based on the value of the instrument. At Morley's in south-east London, for example, the monthly rental is approximately 2 per cent of the value (for example £36 for a piano worth £1,200). After a year you can either return the instrument, or buy it, or buy another instrument of lesser or greater price. Three-quarters of the sum you have paid in rent will be deducted from the price.

Reconditioning

With high labour costs the case for reconditioning an old piano has become more marginal, Morley's says that whereas 10 years ago reconditioned instruments accounted for 70 per cent of its sales, today the figures are 5 per cent for uprights and 15 per cent for grands. You have to decide whether your money might not be better spent on a new instrument. Costs of reconditioning vary widely and you should shop around. Because of

small overheads a person working on his own should be able to undercut a larger operation, but you need to be sure of his qualifications. The Piano Workshop in Hampstead quotes from £500 to £1,500 for an upright and up to £3,000 for a grand. Mr Roberts of the Piano House breaks down the reconditioning process into: rebuilding of the action, £250 to £300 (upright), £300 to £500 (grand); repinning, £140; restringing, £250 (upright), £300 to £500 (grand); repolishing the case, £200 (upright), £350 (grand). Stripping the case, staining it and waxing it will cost between £100 and £150.

Tuning

This should be done two or three times a year. The cost ranges from about £9 to nearly £14. By drying the atmosphere central heating can cause pianos to go out of tune. The obvious step is to turn down the thermostat or move the piano further from the radiator.

A hygrometer, costing between £1.50 and £2, can be placed inside the instrument to measure humidity. Remedies against dryness extend from standing cans of water within the instrument, through a hydrocell unit, which one soaks in the bath then hangs inside the piano, to an electronically-controlled machine with a damp chaser, humidifier and sensing unit (cost about £60).

New pianos, whose timber has been kiln dried and which use chemical rather than animal glues, should withstand central heating better than old instruments.

Regulating

This involves reducing the slackness in the action and should be done every five to seven years. The job can be carried out at home and costs between £70 and £100.

Advice on dealers

The Piano Advisory Service, The Cloisters, 11 Salem Road, London W2 4BU. Tel: 01-221 0990/10.

Early keyboard instruments

Harpsichords

For an antique price range from £3,000 to £30,000. For reproductions Robert Goble of Oxford charges between £3,350 and £5,750 (two-

manual concert model, 16ft. stop, pedal operated) excluding VAT. And John Morley of London between £3,130 and £7,190 (two-manual "Kirkman" model). Prices (excluding VAT) at The Early Music Shop of Bradford and London range from about £1,500 to more than £5,500.

Tuning can be done by the owner much more easily than with a piano. Electronic tuning aids are available. Restoration. Costing accurately is difficult but the range should be between £450 and £1,000.

Reproduction spinets range in price from about £1,500 to nearly £3,000, reproduction clavichords from about £950 to more than £2,000, reproduction virginals from about £1,100 to nearly £2,300. Morley's offers a fortepiano for £7,212. Early instrument kits can be bought from The Early Music Shop. Sample prices (excluding VAT) are from about £730 to £1,900 for harpsichords, about £1,000 for a fretted clavichord, £2,500 for a fortepiano and £635 for an Italian virginal.

Organs

The Early Music Shop offers portable organs in its range from about £130 to £2,400 (excluding VAT). For the complete instruments, prices are between about £600 and £3,000.

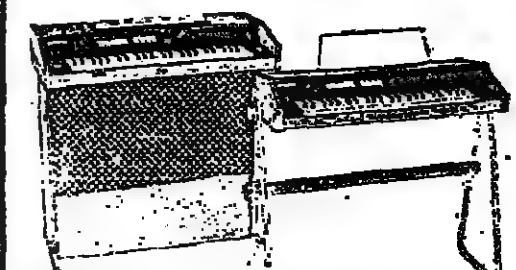
Organs suitable for a church or large hall vary from about £7,500 (one manual and pedals) to between £150,000 and £250,000. Advice on buying or restoring organs is available from two bodies, the first Anglican, the second Roman Catholic: Organs Advisory Committee (secretary: Donald Findlay), Council for Places of Worship, 83, London Wall, London EC2M 3NA. Organ Advisory Group (secretary: John Rowntree), The Cottage, 2 Bury Bank, Greenham Common North, Newbury, Berkshire.

Electronic

Prices quoted by Yamaha, which is the biggest seller in Britain, cover the range of available instruments. They start at about £200 for a portable keyboard and rise to more than £50,000 for the GX1, a machine with three manuals and pedals which Yamaha describes as a "multiple synthesizer" rather than as an organ.

Simon Scott Plummer

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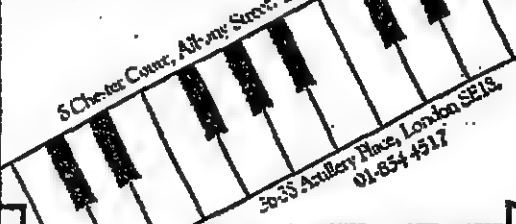
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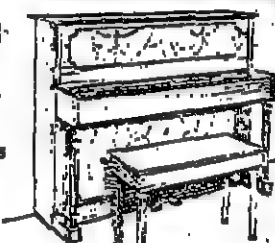
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continued from facing page

musical health depends solely on its output of musicians of this calibre, just as it is harmful to music students to feel that the career of an international soloist is their only possible fulfilment. We have just as much need of schoolteachers who can give a decent recital or lead hymn-singing with finesse.

We need church organists who can do more than stumble through a few chords. We need amateur musicians who can brighten their own lives and those of their neighbours. We need private teachers who see their work not as drudgery but as excitement and pleasure.

This is why all the signs of movement and growth in the domain of the keyboard are so inspiring. It is not so much that they hold out the prospect of more and better practising musicians, but that they point to future generations who gain more from music, and therefore more from life.

Paul Griffiths

Treasures on show

Instruments from several centuries can be seen, and sometimes heard, at several centres in Britain. But access to them varies, and it is advisable to check before visiting any museum, however public. You will then avoid my experience of calling in the Victoria and Albert to find the music section closed until late autumn for roof repairs.

A few treasures are on show in other parts of the museum, including a 1570 spinet, believed to have belonged to the first Queen Elizabeth. Waiting in the wings, in need of extensive restoration, is an organ from Fonthill said to have been played by Mozart and young William Beckett. A tape of some of the earliest keyboard instruments is on sale at the Victoria and Albert, together with slides of them.

A 1612 harpsichord which belongs to the present Queen Elizabeth has been lent to the Benton Fletcher collection at Fenton House, Hampstead, although it is away for an overhaul. The most modern item is a 1925 German Arnsdorf-Dolmetsch, which reproduces performances by virtuosos such as Paderewski and Rachmaninoff.

Going further into mechanical, the Thurford collection near Fakenham, Norfolk, features fairground organs, but the keyboard comes into its own when a mighty Worlitzer, from 1932, is played at summer concerts.

More classical strains are produced in occasional broadcasts of a 1602 chamber organ now in Carisbrooke Castle Museum on the Isle of Wight. It is traditionally associated with a third royal Elizabeth, a Stuart princess at the time of the Civil War. The University of Edinburgh's Russell Collection is appropriately housed in St Cecilia's Hall. Its harpsichords, clavichords, fortepianos, spinets and chamber organs are on view, principally during the Edinburgh Festival.

One of the greatest rarities, a 1480 upright harpsichord, is held by the Royal College of Music, but access is very restricted. Because the instrument is so fragile a replica has been constructed for playing.

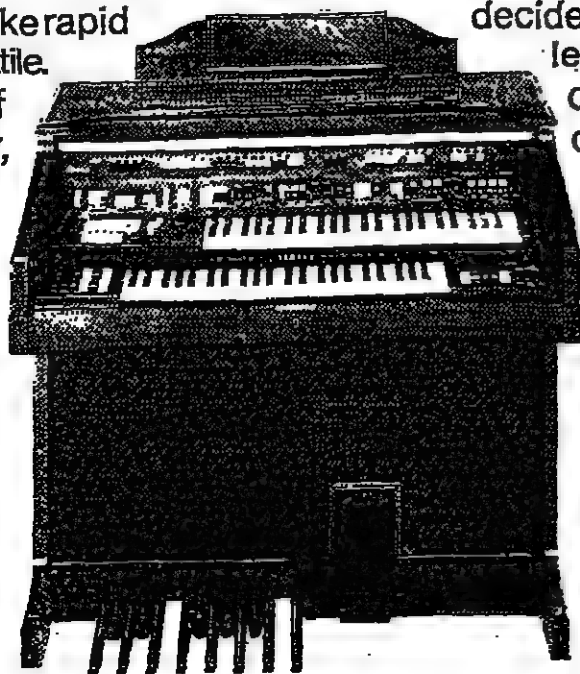
John Broadwood and Sons has a collection of its own products, including the scandal Victorian square piano on which Sir Edward Elgar composed *The Dream of Gerontius*. Some are lent out for exhibitions occasionally.

Patrick O'Leary

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Lord Chalfont

The danger signals flash again in the Middle East

It was difficult, on a recent tour of the Middle East, to avoid crossing the distinctive tracks of Foreign Office ministers engaged on reconnaissance missions of various kinds. A set of much larger footprints marked the passage of Dr Henry Kissinger, conducting his own brand of steady-eyed diplomacy.

The problems of the area are never far from the centre of the stage, and there are now clear signs that the Palestinian issue is about to enter a critical and possibly decisive phase. The almost unanimous message of the Arab countries, transmitted persistently to their western visitors and more recently proclaimed unambiguously from the Islamic Conference at Taif in Saudi Arabia, is that a stable Middle East is possible only in the context of an acceptable solution to the Palestinian problem.

If the public pronouncements of the Arab leaders at Taif are to be believed, this seems to involve, among other things, the "liberation" of Jerusalem. It is therefore not too alarmist to suggest that dangerous times lie ahead.

It would be comforting to suppose that, faced with the possibility that an area of profound strategic importance might soon become once more a theatre of war, the West had evolved a common policy designed to protect its vital interests. It is, however, the case: Disenchantment by the apparent intransigence of Mr. Begin, the Carter administration, before it came to its inglorious and unlamented end, had begun to disintegrate the structure of America's traditional support for Israel and for all practical purposes had abandoned the general direction of policy which began with such euphoria at Camp David.

President Reagan is unlikely to be quite so far from the Israeli cause, and if Mr.

Shimon Peres, with his more flexible and imaginative approach to the Palestinian problem, should succeed Mr. Begin as Prime Minister of Israel in July, the way might still be open for some modified version of the Camp David formula.

Mr. Peres favours the Jordanian option, in which King Hussein would assume a leading and decisive role in the future of the West Bank. He understands the clear advantages which would accrue not only to Jordan and Israel but to the region as a whole from collaboration in the construction of roads, railways, ports and canals, and underlines the importance to the West of an area of prosperity and stability stretching from the Dead Sea to the Red Sea.

His attitude to Jerusalem postulates freedom of access to the holy places ("they can fly their flags on them if they want to") and a system of self-governing boroughs within the city. Some of the statements from the Islamic Conference suggests that King Hussein might, however, be reluctant to assume the role proposed for him. He is a stronger and more confident leader than he was five years ago; he has an alliance with Iraq, one of the most resolutely anti-Zionist countries in the Middle East; he commands a powerful and loyal army; and he displays all the signs of a rugged and uncompromising independence.

Meanwhile the situation is further complicated by the lingering presence in the wings of the western Europeans. It is a matter for some concern that the only important foreign policy initiative on which the countries of the EEC have so far been able to agree should be one so fraught with danger. It is therefore not too alarmist to suggest that the political and strategic implications of the



King Hussein and Mr Shimon Peres: favouring a Jordanian option on the future of the West Bank.

Venice Declaration have been fully and rigorously analysed, but it is not a proposition upon which it would be prudent to bet a great deal of money.

On the surface the declaration is reasonably pious and well-intentioned, except for its bland assumption that the Palestine Liberation Organisation "will have to be associated with the negotiations". It is not immediately obvious why Israel should be expected to negotiate with an organisation which is openly committed to its destruction. There is indeed something about the Venice Declaration which suggests a severe attack of the Lancaster

House syndrome—a messianic conviction that if only "all the parties concerned" can be gathered around a table, the irreconcilable can be reconciled.

Furthermore, behind the Venice Declaration lies a fatal flaw in the contemporary approach of many western countries to international relations—an apparent belief that the formulation of theoretical solutions is an adequate substitute for the practical exercise of power.

After considering confidential position papers submitted by the principal member-states, the Nine have formulated a

series of "options" covering Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, self-determination for Gaza and the West Bank, security guarantees, and the status of Jerusalem. The basic requirement is Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem within two years, with security guaranteed by an international force under United Nations auspices.

The range of options for Jerusalem have one element in common—partition in one form or another. What is not clear is what the EEC would do if any or all of these options became

part of an agreement imposed upon Israel (many of them would never be accepted voluntarily) and if Israel were subsequently threatened with attack. For it should never be forgotten that while Arab political concessions can easily be repudiated, Israeli territorial concessions can only be reversed by force.

The hidden assumption seems to be that the responsibility for guaranteeing any agreement will be principally that of the United Nations. References to the United Nations are unlikely to be taken very seriously and western Europe cannot guarantee its own security, much less that of Israel. If

the "options" result in settlement, well and good; if not someone else will have to pick up the pieces. President Reagan, as the evidence of his past statements and the attitudes of his new State Department team, is unlikely to be enthusiastic about a European initiative which might conceivably produce short-term solutions but would almost certainly contain the seeds of ultimate disaster.

For there should be no doubt in the mind of any western leader that if Israel believes itself to be abandoned in the interests of western relations with the oil-producing countries, and under threat of attack from some of those

countries, there will be another war. At the very least this might aggravate the already substantial shift in the balance of power in the area; it might even bring a Russian military presence to the eastern Mediterranean coast.

There is, however, an even worse contingency, which no one can afford to discount. It is that in any future Middle Eastern war the decisive factor might be the nuclear weapon. Pakistan's "Islamic Bomb" programme is now well advanced; Iraq has a French Osiris-type nuclear reactor and a supply of weapons grade plutonium.

The Iranian air attack on the Iraqi nuclear installation early in the Gulf war did little serious damage and most intelligence assessments indicate that Iraq might have a nuclear bomb in five years at most. Libya has made at least one recent approach to China in an attempt to acquire nuclear weapons and has also helped to finance the Pakistani programme.

What is more immediately significant is that few serious observers are now in any doubt that Israel already has a substantial stockpile of nuclear weapons and is acquiring missile systems capable of at least intermediate-range delivery. Furthermore, the Israelis, with a three-figure annual inflation rate, are no longer in the mood to spend a large proportion of their national resources maintaining extensive conventional defences.

It is right that the search for a fair and durable settlement in the Middle East should be at the top of the international agenda; but it would be appallingly dangerous to pursue any initiative which might reasonably be perceived by Israel as a threat to its security and eventually to its survival.
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Memo to the Labour Party: prime ministers are chosen by the Queen

Who Chooses the Prime Minister? This question has figured prominently in the debate within the Labour Party about the method of selecting its leader.

It is said, on the one hand, that the new system adopted at the Wembley special conference will give the trade union bosses, who are supposed to manipulate at will the 40 per cent of electoral weight given to the unions affiliated to the Labour Party, the power to elect the Prime Minister and even to "recall" him. It is added that this is unconstitutional, undemocratic, dangerous, contemptuous of Parliament and grounds enough for right-thinking people to consider leaving the party and forming another.

It is countered, on the other hand, that the Labour Party has a right to select its leader in its own way; that the new system has been adopted in accordance with the party's constitution and, even, that it will strengthen democracy within the party. In the heat generated by this argument too little attention has been given to the facts of the British constitution and in consequence false assumptions are being made both by those who fear and by those who hope to see a Labour Minister chosen by extra-parliamentary preference.

Prime Ministers are chosen by the Queen. In inviting a person to form her Government and so to become Prime Minister she is constrained alone by the duty to see that the country's government is carried on.

In consequence of the powers which the House of Commons has won over the centuries to control expenditure and to veto taxes and other essential acts of government the Queen's Government can only be carried on by someone who commands a majority in the Commons; and that is almost bound to be someone who is himself—or

herself—a member of the Commons. Therefore in practice—though not in law—the Queen is constrained to choose her Prime Minister as someone in the Commons who commands the support of a majority there. Frequently, there is only one such person; at any given moment, given the workings of the two-party system he or she is usually the leader of the MPs of whichever of the Conservative or Labour party has a majority in the Commons, although a wider choice can arise if the members from one party are indecisive in choosing a leader (note that before Mr. Heath and Mrs. Thatcher almost every Conservative Prime Minister first and party leader second).

Until very recently there was no such person as the Leader of the Labour Party. Until well after Harold Wilson was elected leader, the office to which he and all of his predecessors were elected was that of leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party; and, as such, the election by fellow MPs of a leader could be regarded as a convenience to the Queen in helping her to identify who, when Labour was in the majority, was likely to be able to lead her Government successfully.

It was only thought to be a trivial act of simplification or vanity when the title was changed to Leader of the Labour Party. But the change, naturally invited the argument that the Party, more widely defined, should have a hand in electing its own leader. And so, perhaps, it should. Indeed, there is no obligation on it to choose a leader from the House of Commons or indeed to shut the category of peers, criminals, minors, lunatics and aliens who are ineligible for membership of the Commons.

But—and this is the disregarded point—none of this remotely changes the British constitution nor the Queen's duties and prerogatives. In appointing a Prime Minister, if Labour won an election under a leader who was nonetheless unable or unlikely to command a majority in the Commons, perhaps because he was not a member of it or simply because too few other MPs would support him, the Queen would be



Sir Harold Wilson: he was Prime Minister when the title changed from leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party to Leader of the Labour Party.

obliged to invite someone else to form a government.

That would be likely to be the person who had been—or would have been, had the practice continued—elected leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party under the old system. If, of course, the Labour MPs were willing to follow and support the party leader elected by the conference, no doubt he would be asked to be Prime Minister; but there again there would be no violation of constitutional theory or practice, since it would still be his backing in Parliament, and not his extra-parliamentary status, which was the necessary and sufficient condition of his appointment.

Even more absurd is the suggestion that the Labour Party conference, or the trade union bosses there at, could dismiss a Labour Prime Minister in office. They could, of course, elect a new leader of the Party; but, so what?

A Prime Minister in office must resign if and can be forced to resign only if he cannot carry on the Queen's Government. If he can command a majority in the Commons, no amount of knavery or what-have-you outside can displace him. Even if he loses his majority, he still has a right to call an election and, even then, and even if he loses it, to meet the new Parliament before resigning.

What is more, even if enough Labour MPs deprive the Government of its majority in the Commons were minded to withdraw their support from the existing Labour Prime Minister because of what had happened at the Party conference (and that could have happened over policy or other questions at any time in the past), the Prime Minister would

still have the options of advising the Queen to send for someone else (including the Conservative leader) or to dissolve Parliament, so causing a General Election. This power might well deter MPs from taking any notice of the conference decision, especially if they disagreed with it; but, even if it did not, it would still be, as it should be, their decision, not the conference's, which mattered.

This whole question, therefore, of how the Prime Minister is chosen is quite unaffected by what arrangements the Labour Party, as distinct from the Parliamentary Labour Party, makes for choosing its leader. The Labour Party conference can change and has changed the Party's constitution; but it cannot and has not changed the British constitution.

The Queen's duties and prerogatives remain what they were; and the de facto need for a majority in Parliament in order to carry on her Government is quite undisturbed. It is only the illiterate and erroneous teachings of some contemporary political science which have engendered the school-boy howler that the nominal leader of an electorally successful party automatically becomes Prime Minister.

There may or may not be sufficient reasons for the creation of a new political party and for adherence to it (the question of the nature of grounds for Party loyalty have been discussed in this space recently). But whatever they are, the bogus argument that the non-parliamentary election of the Party's leader threatens the choice of and the tenure of future Labour Prime Ministers—to the prejudice of the sovereignty of Parliament and national democracy—cannot be one of them.
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A change of heart for the disabled

Having got off to an indifferent start with the International Year of Disabled People, there are now signs that the future in Britain for the disabled may not be too gloomy.

The work of Mrs Ursula Keeble, who is employed by 14 disability organizations, has persuaded a number of councils to change their minds about cutting services to the disabled rather than face court action over the legality of such moves.

More crucially, it is now becoming clear that the Government is embarrassed at the way local authorities have responded to their calls for savings and previous ministerial statements about the disabled.

The official party for international year was boycotted by Mr. Colin Low, himself a blind lecturer in law, who was invited as president of the National Federation of the Blind. He described the reception to 10 Downing Street as an "obscene irrelevance" when the Government was cutting services to the disabled, including cuts of up to 10 per cent in the value of social security benefits; reductions in local authority services to the handicapped; and a review of the quota system for disabled workers which he said would lead to its abandonment.

Professor Peter Townsend, chairman of the Disability Alliance, attended the reception both to present to the Prime Minister the text of a resolution passed unanimously at a conference of disability groups and to hear what ministers had to say in response to the widespread charges that Government policy is bearing disproportionately on the disabled.

The resolution itself called on the Government to honour pre-election promises by introducing an allowance for the most severely disabled people regardless of age, sex or when or how the disability occurred.

Mr. Hugh Rossi, who has replaced Mr. Reg Prentice as Minister for the Disabled, told Professor Townsend he regretted Mr. Prentice's publicly stated view that disabled people should share cuts in public expenditure.

He went on to say that the disabled should be protected against any further cuts in public expenditure. Professor Townsend, who was not alone when Mr. Rossi made those remarks, understood the minister to mean that he regretted that the disabled had suffered at all from cuts in social services.

The substance of that interpretation was confirmed by Mr. Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, and Dr. Gerard Vaughan, Minister of State for Health, at the same function. They referred to ministerial statements that vulnerable minorities should be protected. Those statements, the two ministers said, had specified not only those aged 75 and over and the most severely disabled as groups to be protected, but also that the home help service should not be cut back. "That was news to me," Professor Townsend said. "I do not recall such specific guidance being issued by ministers. It should be welcomed and ministers encouraged in this international year to enlarge on their advice."

It may also be news to those local authorities who have reduced the home help service or introduced charges for the formerly free service. The London borough of Redbridge, which introduced new charges last April, conducted a survey after it became clear that a

large number of elderly and disabled people had now cancelled the service.

The survey, which has not yet been published, showed that 42 of the 130 people who replied had cancelled the service immediately the charges were imposed. Only three were aged under 70 and only eight were not receiving supplementary benefit.

Ministers have responded to publicity about the plight of people receiving supplementary benefit by advising local authorities that they should not charge them for home help services. Redbridge has now recommended that people receiving supplementary benefit or who are disabled should be exempt from such charges.

The effects on disabled people of cuts or charges in the home help service was one of the main reasons for disability groups coming together to employ Mrs. Keeble. They argue that imposing charges for essential services on disabled people who cannot afford to pay is effectively withdrawing the service from them.

They cite legal opinion that once a need has been identified under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act, 1970, it must be met by the responsible council. Mrs. Keeble has so far persuaded a number of councils to change their minds, for example by installing a stairlift for a child when the authority had spent the money on a different person. But a number of cases remain on her files and will be taken to court if the issue concerned proves intransigent.

The ministers' statements are bound to strengthen the resolve of disability organizations in insisting on no cuts for disabled people.

Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

A GANG OF UNLIKELY HEROES

Among the attractive characteristics of Americans is their persistent self-questioning. They are never sure that they are doing things right, always keen to monitor their performance.

That explains why the very first question asked at last week's press conference for most of the freed hostages was from a reporter who wondered whether he and his colleagues, in their anxiety to be first and best with the news, had overdone it.

It was, in a sense, pathetic. Here was the first formal public appearance by men and women who had been occupying the headlines, from their inaccessibly confined, for the best part of 15 months.

We should have been bursting with questions about their ordeal. Yet the first was not about them but about us, the reporters. How do you think we are doing?

By any previous standard the press had overdone it. Hundreds of reporters, trailing electronic gadgetry, had hounded the victims from Algiers to Wiesbaden to West Point to Washington.

No expense had been spared. For their arrival on American soil at Stewart airport in New York state, a portable satellite

dish had been erected on a hillside to beam the distant shots—partially obscured by a fuel truck—to a breathless world. Answering that first news conference question, Bruce Laingen, the chargé d'affaires at the embassy, said the press had been "understanding" and added: "We have no apprehensions about dealing with the press."

Indeed, many of the hostages ignored the barriers which officials had placed between them and reporters. At both Wiesbaden and West Point they voluntarily offered themselves for interviews.

What we often forget as we covered the story was that most of the hostages were diplomats, used to being more or less in the public eye and trained to acquit themselves well. Mr. Laingen pointed that out at the press conference when he described himself and his colleagues as the "embassy in exile."

It was one of those casual remarks which suddenly illuminates a new area of consideration. People whose faces we knew only from photographs taken in captivity were suddenly fleshed out into real people with real jobs.

Hostage Bruce German became Bruce German, the

budget officer, sending memos to staff to cut their consumption of paper clips. Hostage John Graves was John Graves, the public relations officer, showing during the conference that he had not lost his talent for verbal obfuscation. Hostage Thomas Schaefer was the air attaché, doing whatever mysterious things such functionaries do.

They sat there, in three tiered rows on the stage of the Eisenhower Auditorium, behind tables covered with light blue cloth, looking like contestants in some grossly expanded edition of *University Challenge*. Following the train of thought inspired by Mr. Laingen, it was possible to appreciate what a highly unlikely set of heroes they are.

Diplomats are hardly anyone's favourite people, except those of other diplomats. In the United States especially they are regarded as a privileged and probably idle gang who feed at the public trough and see exotic places at government expense.

Did not President Reagan, after all, gain power partly on a programme of slashing federal spending and the bureaucracy? And was not his very first executive act symbolic of that pledge, when he signed an order

forbidding any new hirings in the federal service? Indeed, he boasted of it when he greeted the hostages, saying it was a reason why they were needed back in their old jobs.

Yet because of their long ordeal, these people had deservedly been forgiven for being part of the free-spending federal government machine. Most were clearly enjoying their unfamiliar heroic status almost as much as they enjoyed meeting their nearest and dearest at that peculiar old hotel up at West Point.

The second moment of illumination during this last crowded week came from a television commentator. To fill in time between shots of sobbing hostages and their relatives on the south lawn of the White House, he recalled that the last time there had been so much weeping on that lawn had been in November, 1977, when police used tear gas against a crowd of noisy demonstrators protesting at the visit to Washington of the Shah of Iran.

It would not be right to say that relations between Iran and the United States had come full circle since then, but the remark did point up a neat symmetry. Tears at the beginning, tears at the end and tears for many months in between.

Of the millions of words to have been written about the hostages and about relations with Iran in the past fortnight, some of the most interesting came from the pen of one of the hostages, the same Mr. Laingen. On the day Mr. Reagan greeted them on the south lawn, the *New York Times* published a memorandum to the State Department which Mr. Laingen had signed. In August, 1979, on the subject of negotiating with Iran,

deal with, "Perhaps the single dominant aspect of the Persian psyche is an overriding egotism," it said.

His antecedents lie in the long Iranian history of instability and insecurity which put a premium on self-preservation. The practical effect of it is an almost total preoccupation with self and leaves little room for understanding points of view other than one's own.

The Persian experience has been that nothing is permanent and it is commonly perceived that hostile forces abound. In such an environment each individual must be constantly alert for opportunities to protect himself against the malevolent forces that would otherwise be his undoing. He is obviously justified in using almost any means available to exploit such opportunities."

Those observations turned out painfully prophetic. With hindsight, somebody in the State Department or the White House should have digested them and given them weight when assessing the likelihood that the decision to admit the Shah for medical treatment here might put American representatives in Tehran in danger. When asked to comment on this at the press conference, John Limbert, the political

officer at the embassy, gave a very answer: "When you're in the embassy in Tehran, or wherever, it seems... that you always know better what Washington should do. This is natural among foreign service officers."

The self-questioning that is following their release, now that euphoria is waning, is not about who was to blame initially nor even about whether the press was guilty of excess. It is about the more fundamental question of whether the deal by which they were freed was or was not shameful.

The division between hawks and doves has a depressing familiarity to those who remember the debate over Vietnam. The hawks say the deal amounted to bartering with terrorists and should be discredited by the new Administration.

The doves say the important thing was that the hostages were released alive and that it is now in America's strategic interest to pursue good relations with whatever authority exists in Iran. Mr. Reagan is taking a circumspect position. In his speech of welcome to the hostages he employed the rhetoric of the hawks, yet he is acting like a dove in adhering to the terms of President Carter's agreement.

Once again we have to look to the hostages' press conference for a nugget of wisdom. Victor Tomseth, the embassy's senior political officer, said: "If we look beyond the rhetoric... we do see that there is a lot of negotiation in previous terrorist incidents except those that have ended tragically."

During the crisis, the stress placed by the press on the paramount importance of the hostages' safe return made it virtually impossible for the Government to assess any other priority, even had they wanted to.

The tumultuous reaction to their return last week—the ribbons, the banners, the parades—was a celebration of the triumph of humanity and a vindication of Washington's policy of patience. Those who advocated a tougher line might reflect that they would have been playing their *rescuee* games with other people's lives.

In that the press focused the Government's mind on the primacy of the humanitarian aspect of the crisis, they can share some of the credit for the final happy conclusion. Another unlikely gang of heroes.

Michael Leapman



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TOWARDS A MASS PARTY

One of the consequences of Labour's Wembley fiasco is that attention has been directed more sharply than for some time to the anomaly of the union block vote. This attention is not just coming from the habitual critics of the unions and the party. Mr Denis Healey agreed in a radio interview yesterday that the system does need to be sorted out.

Dissatisfaction is even heard from some of the unions themselves. "Each union knows how many people pay the political levy," Mr Tom Jackson, the general secretary of the Union of Communication Workers, said last week, "and yet we know that some unions affiliate on more than their levy-paying membership. This is simply buying votes and buying influence". Another moderate union, APEX, declared over the weekend that "a need exists to consider the voting patterns at the Labour Party conference"—and it would be no use doing that without a searching look at the system of the block vote.

Mr Jackson's comments point to the arbitrary way in which the system is operated. That is indeed a powerful criticism, but even if the arrangement was applied by each union in a uniform fashion it would still be open to objection. Ninety per cent of the votes at Labour conferences are in the hands of union delegates, who are able to vote on behalf of all the members of their union who have been affiliated to the party.

Sometimes the leader of the delegation decides how the block vote should be cast; often this is determined by the delegation collectively. But whichever it is, there can be no assurance that the decision relates even approximately to the views of the members on whose behalf the vote is cast. It is true that the

principle of representative democracy requires decisions to be made without the electorate being consulted every time. But the difference in this instance is that people join a union and elect its leaders on industrial not political grounds.

The system of the block vote is therefore a democratic absurdity. Yet it has to be acknowledged that it is an absurdity on which the forces of sanity and moderation within the party have relied throughout much of its history. This is because the Labour Party is to such a large extent the product of the unions. It grew out of a partnership between the unions and socialist idealists, represented for the most part in various socialist societies. While the idealists have, not surprisingly, provided most of the radical fervour, the unions have supplied the political ballast.

The unions are frequently criticized for acting as a negative influence within the party. Their reforming zeal is questioned; their interest in new ideas is often minimal; and they usually seem more concerned to secure a better material deal for their members than to transform society, except from time to time in their perorations. Indeed, their concern with party politics is in general by no means so great as is usually supposed. They want Labour to be in power because it is "their party", but some of the party's difficulties have come about because many union leaders do not attach a high priority to political matters.

Yet without the influence of the unions, the Labour Party would over the years have adopted many more foolish policies. With all their political failings, they have brought an earthy realism that is often sorely needed to the party's

deliberations. To say this is not to justify the block vote, still less to excuse the excessive role accorded to it in the new electoral college. But it would be no answer to the party's problems simply to sweep away the block vote and leave everything else unchanged.

The party conference would be even more extreme and create an even more appalling impression on the public than the shambles at Blackpool last October, if it was dominated by the constituency parties in their present condition. It is not true that all the local parties are under the control of the left; but most of them are, and some are under the sway of very unrepresentative extremist cliques. To leave the party in their care would be a recipe for disaster.

What is needed therefore is to get rid of the block vote without removing the influence of trade unionists from the party. This means that such a move should be accompanied, or better still preceded, by a massive drive to raise the level of individual membership. It is calculated that at the moment only 5 per cent of those affiliated to the party through their unions have also joined as individuals. Given the present structure of the party, there is not much incentive for any union member other than a political enthusiast to join as an individual—which goes a long way to explain why constituency parties are so unrepresentative. But if the abolition of the block vote was not to leave Labour in an even worse condition, there would have to be a new determination to bring individuals into the party, and possibly new forms of organization for doing so. There is no satisfactory democratic alternative to a modern political party being a mass party, which Labour is certainly not today.

As well as this I will have to take an oath of allegiance to the Crown. This I will be delighted to do as I have great admiration for Her Majesty and all the Royal Family.

I would mention that my father fought in the Boer War (on the British side) and was in the siege of Mafeking. On top of this he gave up a good position in Rhodesia to join up in the Great War. I myself served six years in the British Army during the last war as a volunteer.

I am writing this to bring to the notice of those concerned with a farcical state we live in. A real life in Wonderland! I wonder how many other Acts of Parliament have been enacted without due consideration for the individual.

Yours sincerely,
ANTHONY MCSHEEHY,
40 Lion Lane,
Hastmere,
Surrey.
January 18.

From Mr R. K. D. Shah
Sir, There is an unfortunate error in the report endorsing the continuing of the special quota voucher scheme for East African Asians. It is true, however, that the Home Secretary did affirm in the House of Commons on July 29 on the occasion of the publication of the White Paper that the scheme would not be affected by the nationality proposals. This, though, is hardly material for, as your Correspondent points out, they do not at present have the right of entry.

For those whose memory may be short, it is worth recalling that at the time independence was negotiated for the East African territories, specific assurances backed by legislation were given that the Asians would retain their British nationality in the form of citizenship of the United Kingdom.

The Bill as such does not, contrary to the report, endorse the continuing of the special quota voucher scheme for East African Asians. It is true, however, that the Home Secretary did affirm in the House of Commons on July 29 on the occasion of the publication of the White Paper that the scheme would not be affected by the nationality proposals. This, though, is hardly material for, as your Correspondent points out, they do not at present have the right of entry.

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Human realities behind Nationality Bill

From Mr Anthony McSheehy

Sir, It seems to me that our legislators have not given any thought as to what it means to an individual that individual suddenly discover that he is not a citizen of the United Kingdom after having lived in England for over 66 years and having held a UK passport since 1929.

This is what happened to me when I applied to renew my passport last year (1980). I was told that according to an Act of Parliament of 1948 I was no longer a citizen of the United Kingdom because I was born in Rhodesia, now Zimbabwe. Both my parents were British and I was born in October 1912.

I was severely shaken and angry and felt there must be some mistake. Why should I have my British nationality taken away from me? This did not even happen to traitors to their country!

I decided to take the matter up with my MP. He saw my point of view and took my case up on my behalf with the Home Office but to no avail. After much correspondence between the MP and the Home Office I received a letter from the Home Office stating that the law is the law and that the only means open to me was to make an application for UK citizenship and that would be considered sympathetically by the Secretary of State.

This I did. Just before Christmas I received a letter from the Home Office stating that my application for registration as a citizen of the UK and Colonies would be approved by the Secretary of State on receipt of £50. This is a pretty high sum for a pensioner to have to pay in order to confirm that he is a British subject!

As well as this I will have to take an oath of allegiance to the Crown. This I will be delighted to do as I have great admiration for Her Majesty and all the Royal Family.

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Attitudes of Islam on Palestine

From Professor Musa Mazzawi

Sir, In your editorial today (January 29) you label the attitude of the Islamic leaders at the Tait conference as "negative" and say that what has so far happened at the conference in regard to the Palestine problem is likely to spoil prospects "of what could be the most promising year in the Middle East for some time".

Your attitude, Sir, is unrealistic. The Arabs, and particularly the Palestinians, are tired of friends who, in the name of moderation or whatever, are always talking about "jam tomorrow". The Palestinians have seen the direct victims of substantial injustice for more than thirty years. So many resolutions of the United Nations have been taken to uphold their rights, but with little or no positive effects. Their conditions have progressively worsened, and their oppressors have become more merciless and brazen, and are also creating "facts" such as settlements in occupied land, which will be difficult to undo.

Why is it wrong for the Arabs and the Muslims to take the bit between the teeth and decide to wrench their rights by pressure or positive means? It is simply not true that there are at present especially hopeful signs about a possible solution to the Palestine problem. Last year was election year in the USA; next year will be the year of approval by the new Administration, and the following year no one knows what label it will get or what alibi the Americans will have for not grasping the matter, and the year after that will be pre-election year, then election year, and we are on the merry-go-round again!

The plain fact for the Arabs and the Muslims is that neither

the Americans nor the Europeans are willing in regard to the rights of the Palestinians to do what good conscience dictates. You say that this week the US State Department condemned the building of Jewish settlements on Arab land as "unhelpful". Is that all? Could they not find a stronger word for what is an utterly illegal act of aggression? And the EEC "initiative"; the Europeans say they are in favour of the PLO "being associated with negotiations". But cannot Europe find a more direct and cardinal role for the Palestinians in deciding their future, and why can't they stop talking at each other (like President Sadat and King Hussein) about this?

Yours faithfully,
MUSA MAZZAWI,
Polytechnic of Central London,
School of Law,
Red Lion Square, WC1.
January 29.

From Shaikh Mubarak Ahmad
Sir, Your leader's "Islamic" negative summit" points rightly to the real interpretation of the Founder of the Ahmadiyya Movement, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, presented to the Muslims more than 90 years ago.

The Muslims have held fast to the idea that Jihad meant spreading Islam by sword. But Hazrat Ahmad had repeatedly mentioned in his books that Jihad did not necessarily mean armed struggle; it implies a moral campaign or struggle. To this God Muslims have now at last come to the right path.

Yours faithfully,
SHAHIK MUBARAK AHMAD,
Imam, London Mosque,
16 Gressehall Road,
Putney, SW18.

From Mr John Harris
Sir, You publish (January 24) letters of concern for historic buildings, which propose to take the place of a bill of historic buildings to record by photograph historic interiors before dispersal of contents.

I first raised this publicly in 1953, since when the situation has remained unchanged. It ought to be a matter for the Secretary of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, but the RCHM has no powers to act and does not play an interventionist role. Any building that has survived with its contents is an entity, yet however historic can be destroyed by the simple act of transfer of ownership or sale by auction.

In theory, a great collection such as Holkham's could be so dispersed because no legislation exists to compel its owner to allow it to be recorded. It is a chastening experience to browse through the RCHM and National Monuments Record's boxes of photographs to find hundreds of surveys of empty rooms, in many cases fully furnished only months before the photo-

grapher's visit. Three cases can be singled out as typical of about 350 in the past 25 years: the Spencer-Churchill collection at Northwick Park, Gloucestershire; the completely furnished Georgian kitchens at the Museum of Lincolnshire; and very recently the breaking up of the Gouthorn collection at Betchworth Park, Surrey—this last named perhaps the most intact, surviving, landed-gentry collection in southern England.

What is at stake is not necessarily high art of the Holkham sort, but episodes of social and artistic history important for an understanding of the country house interior and the way of life it witnessed. If an accusing finger is pointed to the RCHM or the auction houses or, indeed, the Victoria and Albert Museum, they can all be exonerated because no method of recording what are, in effect, private collections has yet been devised. It requires the cooperation of every one, and surely it is time an initiative was taken.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN HARRIS,
10 Limerston Street, SW10.
January 24.

Sainsbury, who was most helpful, SPUC could not support a Bill which introduced a 22 or 20 week age-limit for abortion and which would, in effect, say that abortion on-demand could be carried out up to the twenty-second or twentieth week.

Mr Sainsbury's proposed Bill, moreover, included a clause allowing the destruction of children of over 20 weeks' gestation for quite a marked number of reasons (thus giving the DHSS cast-iron reasons in law for doing nothing) and would result in an increase in the number of late abortions.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN SAINSBURY, General Secretary,
The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children,
7 Tufnell Street,
Westminster, SW1.
January 15.

From Mr W. T. Wells, QC
Sir, Few of us, fortunately perhaps, have Mr Levin's gift for satire, but while his article on the "Gang of four" (January 27) was excellent fun in its own way, it was in a political sense more than a little naive.

I do not know whether Mr Levin ever read Lord Wavell's lectures on generalship which, to the best of my recollection, were published by the Cambridge University Press about 1938. The point the field marshal made, amongst others, was that preparing a military campaign was in some respects like preparing a political campaign, and as to the requisites of this the field marshal showed considerable insight which might perhaps be of interest to Mr Levin.

To lay the foundation for a political campaign it is necessary in the first place to obtain the support of a number of individuals whose political experience will make it unnecessary for the policies and aims of Mrs Williams and Mr Jenkins and colleagues to be spelt out in detail.

The time for a more widely publicised campaign for the enlightenment of Mr Levin and others will come later.

I am, Sir, yours, etc.,
WILLIAM WELLS,
1 Gray's Inn Square,
Gray's Inn, WC1.

Historic interiors

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WILLIAM WELLS,
1 Gray's Inn Square,
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Childbirth at home

From Dr D. H. Garrow

Sir, Mrs Renee Short and Professor Knox Russell (feature, January 21) have been guilty of using statistics in a misleading way. The published figures of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys refer to the place of birth and not where it was planned to take place. How many deaths occurred in premature babies whose mothers were booked for hospital confinement, but whose homes were so far away that they put off going in until it was too late?

In the High Wycombe district in 1977, 1978 and 1979 there were four neonatal deaths among 97 babies delivered at home, a neonatal mortality of nearly 40 a thousand, but all of them had been booked for hospital delivery. Among the remainder there were no deaths.

It is time for a controlled trial of healthy normal women who want to be delivered at home and to whom proper facilities, including blood in the fridge, professional expertise, home help and nearby hospital facilities are available. Half of them should be allowed their wish and half of them overruled and delivered in hospital.

With proper selection there should be no avoidable infant mortality in either group, but the choice can be compared in respect of length of labour, number of intervention procedures and analgesics given, and I would guess that those born at home would fare better and would certainly claim that they were happier.

I am, etc.,
D. H. GARROW,
Consultant Paediatrician,
Wycombe General Hospital,
High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

From Mr Robert Adley, MP for Christchurch and Lymington (Conservative)
Sir, If the TUC claims that workers on short-time should be included in the unemployment statistics, will it want to put moonlighters and those engaged in the black economy on the other side of the current employment statistics?

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Jobs that count

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David Wood

A clearer voter's choice at last

There are times when we must treat politics as a deadly serious business, and now is probably such a time. But it is not altogether easy. Consider events during the past few days. One opportunistic opinion poll after another has shown that a social democratic party which does not yet exist somehow to become allied with the Liberals, one of the smaller parties in the Commons, it would be swept into power on a landslide and leave the Conservative and Labour parties in cataclysmic ruins.

Nobody knows whether such an alliance can be formed, and Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, has been running round in a desperate attempt to find out. Nobody knows on what policies, principles and platform the hypothetical alliance would be created. Nobody knows how many candidates the social democrats could deploy in a general election, how they would be financed, and what constituency organizations exist or will exist to bring the million-fold votes flooding into the ballot boxes.

Some things, though, we do know. A few of the nicest and most house-trained socialists in active politics have fallen out of love not precisely with socialism but rather with left-wing bully boys and intriguers who have seized the commanding heights of power within the Labour Party in the much abused name of democracy. Constitutional amendments carried at the 1980 conference and last week's Wembley conference proved to be their rubicon. They have been forced, they say, into an interable position. Something must be done about it.

But moderate men and women cannot in their nature behave immoderately. Mrs Shirley Williams has not given up her seat yet on the National Executive Committee,

though she may be pushed or pulled into that soon. Dr David Owen, who grows day by day, refused to serve on the front benches and now, as his Labour constituency party that he will not stand again as Labour candidate, although he is keeping his seat. Mr William Rodgers first agreed to serve Mr Foot and has now changed his mind and gone to the back benches. So far nobody, however, has been sufficiently immoderate or plain sickened as to leave the Labour Party. The intolerable is being tolerated. In a score of statements and interviews they explain that you cannot, without anguish, walk out of a party that has become part of the warp and woof of your adult life.

It will take time, much as it took time for Cardinal Newman to cross over in May they will at last take the leap into the unknown by forming a new left-centre party. Why May? Well, the local government elections will

Telecommunications in the Arab world

In 20 years the evocative date of 2001 will have been reached, Robert Bailey writes. Sociologists and economists in the Middle East at that time may well look back and decide that the most significant regional events in the last quarter of the twentieth century related to telecommunication.

The full application of current technology is already evident in some Arab states. A foreign exchange dealer in the Gulf is able to view on a television screen instantaneously the same information that is available to his counterpart in London, Tokyo or New York. Elsewhere in the area, Saudi Arabia can boast of one of the world's most advanced telecommunications systems to improve telephone, telegraph and data links.

It represents massive investment as well as big business which shows no sign of slowing down. The fact that the second Middle East Telecommunications Show and Conference, now being held at the Exhibition Centre in Bahrain is 15 per cent larger than the 1979 event, illustrates the amount of international interest in the market.

Travellers in the Middle East can point to wide disparities in quality and complexity of present services. A businessman in Bahrain may be able to call his bank in Zurich from his car telephone. In contrast, the visiting executive in Cairo, more often than not, will find he cannot even obtain a connection across the city.

There are moves towards a more evenly-balanced and regionally cohesive telecommunications development. Overall in the region \$30,000m is expected to be spent on telecommunications in the next 10 years, but there is a need to get the best systems for the job and value for money.

The 21 member countries of the Arab League, with Ethiopia, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Malta and Turkey, are linked in future network planning by the United Nations International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Since its formation in 1945, the Arab League has been the main unifying force in Middle East communications development. Through it the Arab Telecommunications Union was formed in 1958. The latter

aims to organize and improve its members' telecommunications through the ITU by standardizing systems, reducing tariffs, maintaining quality of services and encouraging cooperation among post, telegraph and telephone authorities. An Arab Broadcasting Union was set up in 1969, one result of which was the establishment of an Arab television news exchange in 1973.

However, the most significant cooperative step was taken nine years ago when several governments in the region requested financial and technical help from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to set up a regional network embracing the Middle East and Mediterranean basin.

The UNDP agreed to provide as much as 50 per cent of the capital for the project while the Geneva-based ITU has provided the technical assistance. Surveys working towards a master plan have had to consider a number of factors. These include the amount of traffic, location of national and international networks, economic and social development, transmission systems, switching, routing channels, broadcasting and data transmission needs.

In September, 1978, the master plan was approved by the sponsoring governments. These are grouped in six sub-regions with some countries included in more than one. The first includes Djibouti, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and the two Yemens. The second comprises Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. The third grouping includes Cyprus, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Turkey. The fourth comprises Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Sudan while the fifth includes Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece, Libya, Malta, Turkey and Yugoslavia. The sixth is made up of Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia.

A feature of the master plan is that it is based on diversifying routing to increase reliability of net-

works. Though close collaboration is entailed, in a region not noted historically for cooperation, the potential rewards are impressive. Some 30 million further telephone lines and 300,000 extra telex lines are expected by 1990.

The master plan has been reviewed at ITU headquarters from January 26 to 29. Muhammad Mili of Tunisia, ITU's secretary-general, has given warning previously: "The situation of telecommunications is evolving at an extremely rapid pace with the result that, if the implementation contained in the master plan is not constantly updated, it is liable to become useless and irrelevant very quickly."

The plan is already being carried out. A microwave network was decided on by a meeting of countries in sub-region one, in Djibouti, in 1979. In 1980 surveys were carried out for microwave and submarine cable links between Safage in Egypt and Dubai in Saudi Arabia. A route for microwave communications between Aswan in Egypt and Wadi Halfa in Sudan has also been investigated by ITU staff, while submarine cable connections across the Mediterranean were also studied in 1980.

The ITU estimates that \$3,000m, 10 per cent of the total investment, will be spent on just the international part of the network. When completed it will cover 28 countries and extend over 8,000km from the Atlantic Ocean to the Indian Ocean and to the Black Sea.

While its smooth execution will do much to further Arab unity, the investment focus continues to be very much on purely national developments. Saudi Arabia has already started putting into effect plans to enhance its \$2,000m digital electronic telephone system, provided by L. M. Ericsson of Sweden and Philips of The Netherlands and managed by Bell Canada. Egypt, which is spending \$1,800m on rebuilding its antiquated telephone network, seems to have decided on analogue rather than the newer digital exchanges for its new system.

The contractors, led by Siemens of West Germany, do not rule out the possibility that at later stages of the Egyptian programme digital technology will be applied. The latter is, in telecommunications terms, the cordon bleu recipe for improvement. Whether areas

like the Middle East really need to buy the latest technology, when a previous generation of well proved and adequate equipment is available for the work, is a moot point.

Something that has been around for some time is microwave communications and it is playing a significant role in Middle East developments. Once again, the most spectacular application is seen in Saudi Arabia. The \$408m Inter-Kingdom Microwave Project, carried out by Western Electric of the United States and completed in 1979, extends over 6,200 miles.

Three hundred radio-relay microwave transmission towers have been erected the length and breadth of Saudi Arabia. The system provides 35,000 long-distance telephone circuits as well as telex, data and television channels. Another microwave communications link put into effect by Telettra of Italy has been put in between Jebel Dukah near Taif in Saudi Arabia and Jebel Erba near Port Sudan. The 213-mile link across the Red Sea is the longest line-of-sight radio hop in the world. The newer telecommunications techniques have provided valuable assistance in a number of Arab developments. An American company, the AITech division of Cutler-Hammer's instruments and systems group, provided a \$17.8m traffic management system for the Suez Canal Authority.

The system involves placing Loran radio transmitters on ships as they start their passage through the canal. The device automatically determines its position by analysing signals from special Loran transmitters. Ships' movements are shown on display systems in harbour control offices. The transmitter is taken off the ship when it completes its journey through the waterway and placed on a ship going in the opposite direction.

Telecommunications technology is also important in airport developments. Saudi Arabian Airlines (Saudia) uses an automatic reservations system linked to computers in British Airways' West London terminal. Circuits are provided on the Saudi Arabian telecommunications backbone network to provide data links to Saudia offices in Riyadh and Dhahran. The airline is also linked to Alitalia's maintenance and engineering management information system

(MEMIS) computer in Rome.

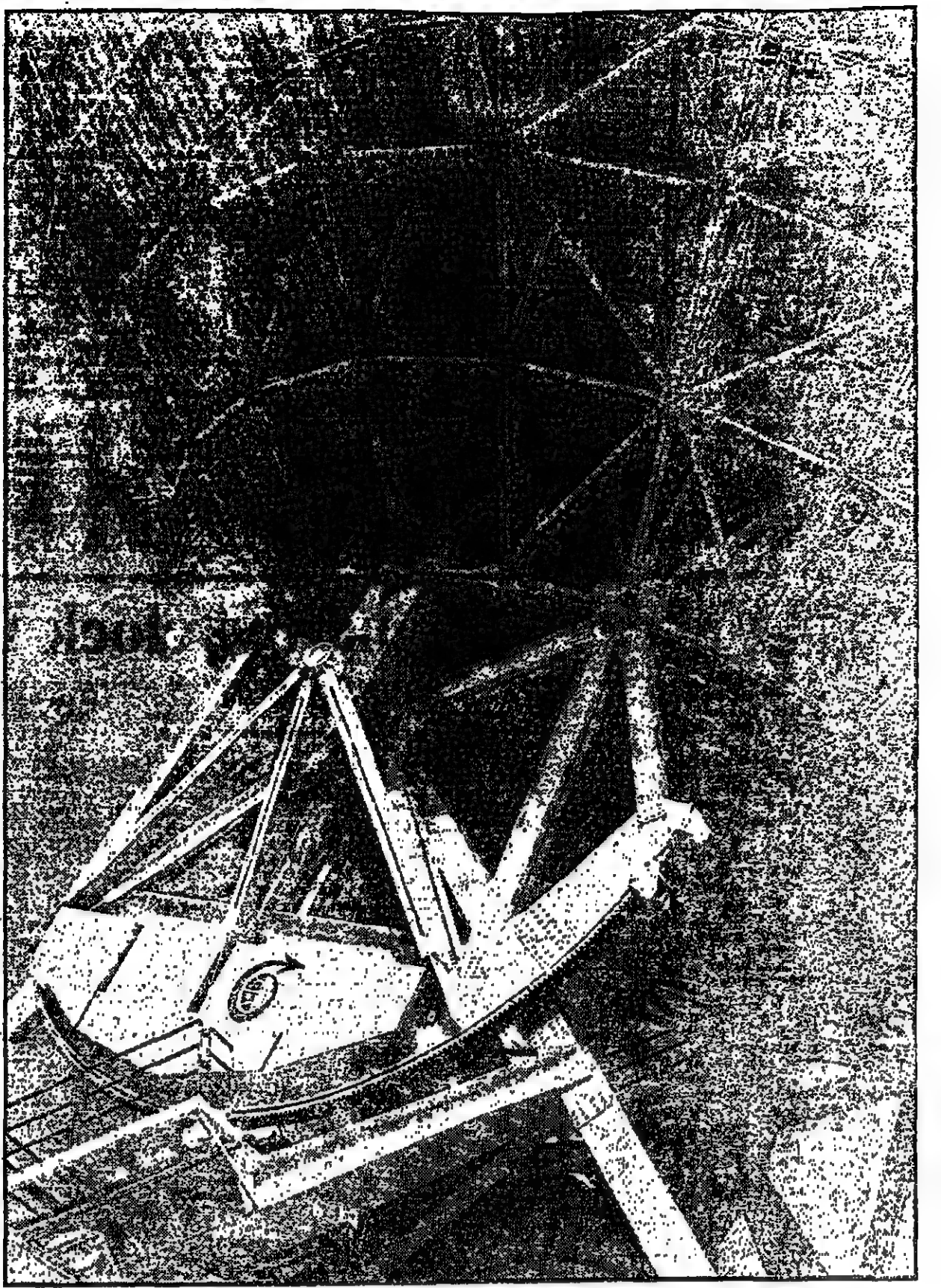
Data links are growing in importance in the region. Ten Arab airlines are planning to take part in a \$30m to \$40m Bahrain-based central computerized reservation system. The participants are Gulf Air, Saudia, ALA, the Royal Jordanian Airline, Kuwait Airways, Middle East Airlines, Syrian Arab Airlines, Libyan Arab Airlines, Democratic Yemen Airlines Company, Yemen Airways and Sudan Airways Corporation. The system is intended to handle 10 million reservations a year. The fact that such systems are being actively considered is a measure of how quickly telecommunications services are growing.

The long-awaited development of the Arab satellite communications project (Arabsat) will undoubtedly be a major spur to the exchange of information in the region. The ambitious project is intended to have two orbiting satellites providing telephone and television links for Arab countries. Much of the extended delay regarding Arabsat involves argument on who is qualified to supply equipment according to boycott rules and who will control the system.

Some consider that after all the bickering the main investor, Saudi Arabia, will at some stage take over responsibility for the whole project. Arabsat, apart from providing ordinary television, transmission links, could also be used to offer educational broadcasts to small rural communities. This is a necessary consideration as about 70 per cent of the entire population in the Arab world is illiterate.

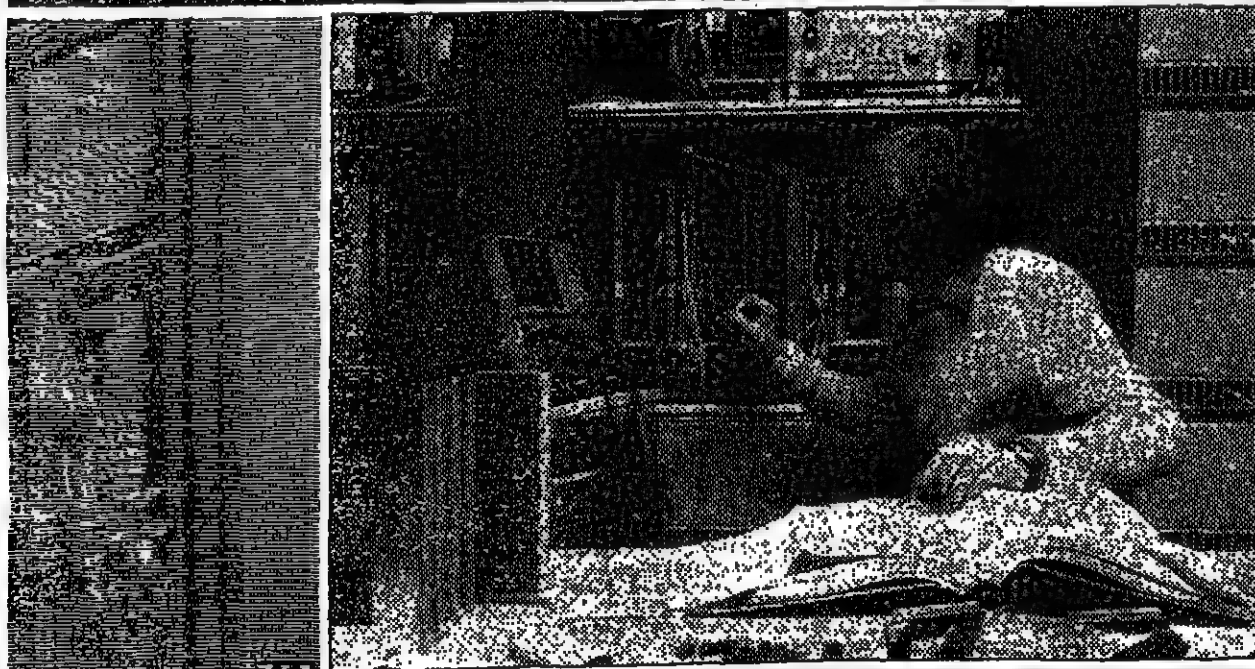
In any event television broadcasting continues to grow steadily in the region. A number of countries have a choice of two programmes and sometimes, as in Dubai, three. A few countries, such as Algeria, manufacture television sets. Most electronic items, both consumer and professional, are imported in the Middle East. Iraq, however, has plans to set up an electronics industry to make as yet undisclosed equipment. Syria is starting up a factory to produce E-10 digital electronic telephone exchanges under licence from CIT-Alcatel of France. Demands for technology transfer can only realistically be met when a country can

continued on page 19



Jill Brown

AXE: the facts and the future.



In the digital switching market, choosing a system may still seem a difficult problem. So many systems exist, so many of them are still in an early development stage—with little more than large promises to back them.

There is one system, however, which is rapidly becoming a world switching favourite—AXE, from Ericsson. A system so powerful, elegant and flexible that it has changed the perspective of most manufacturers and telephone administrations in the world. Today it is obvious that basic AXE features like functional modularity, software security and handling-cost minimisation are being recognised as fundamental requirements on modern switching systems.

Unparalleled success

In the short time since it was introduced, AXE has met with a success unparalleled in the history of telephony. More than three hundred exchanges with a total of three million lines have been contracted for 25 countries. In 13 of these countries, AXE exchanges are already actually in service.

Local production is established in six countries, and under way in a further seven—another measure of the successful development of AXE into a fully operational, manageable system, with comprehensive documentation and extensive support.

Towards the future

Such astounding success does not mean that the development of AXE is over and done with. On the contrary—it brings with it an obligation to protect the investments of our customers.

This protection is accomplished by a continuous development plan and a steady flow of added features and functions. The unique functional modularity of AXE means there is no end or limit to this process.

In fact, the uniquely effective AXE system structure allows for future advances in both component and system technologies.

A powerful digital group switch, for example, was incorporated in AXE almost from the beginning. Now, recent advances in component technology allow us to offer digital subscriber stages as well, completing the first major step in the long-term development plan of AXE.

Why not choose the best?

AXE is clearly ahead today, and its continuous enrichment makes it very difficult for any other system ever to match its advantages. In five years' time there will be just one better digital switching system than today's AXE—AXE with five years' enrichment.

The conclusion is clear: when there's a choice, choose the best.

The Ericsson Group



Telefonaktiebolaget
L M Ericsson
S-125 25 Stockholm
Sweden

Partners in telecommunications progress worldwide

L. M. Ericsson of Sweden and Philips of The Netherlands together with Bell Canada were awarded a turnkey contract to provide 470,000 additional lines for the Saudi Arabian telephone system in December, 1977.

United States bid came from Western Electric which led a United Kingdom group including Plessey, British Insulated Callender's Cables and Cable & Wireless. Its bid was costed at £2,942m. Bell Canada had to bid for its training and maintenance

Western Electric was awarded a \$408m contract in the same year, against strong Italian competition from Sirti, to provide a national microwave communications system. However, the fact

Saudi Arabia's third five-year plan includes further substantial development plans for telecommunications services. Another 480,000 telephone lines will be added to the national network, bringing the line capacity to more than a mil-

Salesmen in the international telecommunications market are expert at analysing any potential weakness, either technical or commercial, in a rival's position. It is not surprising therefore that companies are reluctant

750,000 lines. In the first phase Siemens will install six exchanges in Cairo providing 120,000 lines and Thomson-CSF will supply nine exchanges with 80,000 lines for the Zagazig, Tanta and Mansoura areas of the Nile Delta.

Instead of demanding the latest digital electronic exchange equipment, Arento has specified well proved, but less advanced and presumably less costly, analogue

It must be particularly galling for United States companies in North American parlance not to have a

Robert Bailey
Middle East
Economic Digest

the first stop on any regional itinerary. After the end of the Shah's regime attention has concentrated on Arab countries for defence purchases. That these are increasing is in no small measure due to Iran's

feasible to link the radar systems of the various states which might wish to pool their resources. Radar used at airports for control of civilian air traffic often has military applications as well. Among several interna-

Some 3D radar has undoubtedly been installed in Saudi Arabia and elsewhere

Saudi Arabia is now the main market for all types of both military and civilian electronics in the Middle East. A radio communications system, being installed by International Aeradio of

Computer Science Corporation of the United States has a \$221m contract to supply a national computer information system. An official data bank will have branch systems in Jiddah, Dammam, Doha, Tabuk, Arara, Abha and

Among the companies involved are Marconi Space & Defence Systems, EMI, Ferranti, Tellurometer and Airey Engineering.

single side band communications equipment. Plessey Avionics & Communications is believed to have an order worth \$60m to supply HF and UHF tactical radios for manpacks and vehicles for Iraq's army.

will continue to be among the most important customers in the developing world for communications and other electronics equipment for some time.

R.E.

Saudi Arabia's third five-year plan is notable for its commitment to press on with a modernization programme based essentially on rapid industrialization.

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هكذا من الأصل



Highly trained Saudi technicians maintain one of the most advanced telephone systems in the world.

You can watch Muppets in Morocco

One side-effect of the increasing impact of television in Arab countries—part of the way telecommunication is radically changing Arab lifestyles—is that visiting British businessmen can often count on catching up with the latest needle matches in British football. Although television programmes bought in from the West—largely the United States and Britain because of the second-language status of English in the Arab world—probably account for only 30 per cent of Arab television, programmes familiar to British eyes can seem comparatively frequent, from the Muppets to the BBC's Shakespearean series.

Most Arab towns are festooned with television aerials, indicating a high-density usage which will undoubtedly spread into rural areas once links can get the television signals there.

The cultural and educational impact, already considerable, will probably be at its most dramatic in such communities.

Nearly every Arab now has a radio but, apart from this, television is often the only main form of entertainment for a 'mily group.

When the Arab Satellite Communication Organization's

Arabsat becomes operational even the most remote communities will be able to get, via small receiving stations, a wide range of programmes from news and entertainment to instructional and other education programmes. Arabsat should also encourage more ready exchange of both television and radio material between Arab countries, a capability which the political optimism feel will help to ease some of the tensions between various Arab states.

Arabsat is planned to go into operation by 1984 and a decision is due on the prime contractor, with a number of bids of between \$100m and \$150m, still being evaluated, including one involving British Aerospace. The British company is in a consortium with France's Matra and Thomson-CSF.

In the same way that television is still largely available only in areas of large population density, the telephone network peters out rapidly outside the cities and towns even in those Arab countries which are in the van of telecommunications development.

Saudi Arabia's new five-year investment plans for telecommunications include not only an expansion of radio and television broadcasting but extensions of its so-called backbone coaxial cable system to the benefit of more rural areas and improvements to its domestic

satellite system. The satellite microwave system will bring many more rural areas within range of signals picked up on mobile stations, including border areas. Network capacity increases should get radio and television broadcasts to every corner of the kingdom, it is claimed.

Saudi Arabia, with its immense oil revenues, has been able to develop its communications at a pace that, best of any in the Arab world, comes nearest to meeting the needs of its people. The country's improvements in telecommunications have moved its telephone density sharply upwards. Yet it is still far behind the densities found in developed countries.

The number of telephones per 100 of the Saudi population was 2.4 in 1978 but could soon be about 10 per 100. The average for the Arab world is still little more than three per 100 compared with a world average of not much more than 15. Europe's 30 and the 80 to be found in highly developed industrial nations such as the United States.

Bahrain stands at about 22 per 100, Kuwait possibly 17, the United Arab Emirates over 20 and Qatar more than 15. But in Qatar, for instance, the number of telephones to each individual subscriber is as high as 20, indicating no doubt the wealthier Arab's appetite for telecommunications gadgetry.

Even oil riches will not easily increase telephone density levels to anywhere near those found in the highly industrialized countries. One estimate is that given that it costs about £2,000 for each new subscriber line installed in the Middle East, merely doubling the present density would cost well in excess of £100,000m. Yet, according to some consultancy opinion, Arab investment in telecommunications services over the next 10 years is likely to be at most £10,000m.

But drawing conclusions from these sorts of figures and the telephone statistics does tend to leave

out of account the structure of Arab society. Even a comparatively low-density service, provided it is spread geographically, can have disproportionate effects on lifestyles.

In Libya, for instance, the densely populated industrial and commercial centres on the coast, notably at Tripoli and Benghazi, have attracted much of that population from the more rural areas inland. Those in the coastal strip have strong family links in the villages as much as 800 miles away in the desert.

Those family links are usually strong so that without any telephone contact at all there is a tendency to draw to the coastal strip more and more of that part of the family still in the hinterland. That could break up the essentially village basis of the Libyan way of life which is why the Government is making it a priority to bring telecommunications links quickly into even the most remote areas.

Progressively telephone links to the rural areas, largely by cable, will be pushed out from the coastal strip and there are also plans for ensuring that television and radio programmes reach even the most remote communities. In this way it is hoped to keep the population spread throughout the country without particularly weakening the family tie.

Similar moves to keep remote communities within the mainstream of national life can be seen in most other Arab countries. As well as Saudi spending on this sort of expansion, Iraq has been let by the Transport and Communications Ministry for improving telephone services in rural areas. In Oman, where a five-year plan is under way to provide 24 fully automated exchanges and more than 22,000 new telephone lines, many of the facilities will be for the benefit of remote areas hitherto without telephone links.

The problems of providing small telephone exchange systems for remote commu-

nities could prove an opportunity for United Kingdom export sales especially to lesser developed Arab countries, according to Mr John Boag, general manager of British Telecom, the British Post Office consultancy service.

Although Britain's System X digital system—the GEC, Plessey, STC, British Telecom project—is primarily designed for highly developed communities as in the industrialized countries, work is also going on to provide modern and economically operated installations for remote parts of Britain, particularly Scotland. The new systems, which can be self-repairing when faults occur, are particularly useful in reducing maintenance costs in remote areas.

The new digital telephone systems now being increasingly favoured in the Arab world will mean that many Arabs will be enjoying the additional facilities offered probably before many in already developed countries. System X offers more than 30 facilities for domestic users, from automatic redialling of temporarily engaged numbers and re-routing of one's incoming calls to another number to giving the subscriber a morning wake-up call or even voice guidance on steps needed to make, say, an international call.

However far improvements in telecommunications, especially in remote areas, foster domestic cohesion within each Arab country, it remains to be seen how far greater availability of television programmes especially will help the cause of Arab unity. Arabsat will tend to bring a narrowing of television programmes to within a country's geographical boundaries, but where other country's programmes can be picked up there could be scope for any propaganda war to be conducted on screen as well as—as already happens—over the radio wavebands. Nevertheless the advantage of improved telecommunications for the individual Arab must far outweigh this possible debit.

D.H.

Middle Eastern markets lure Britain's manufacturers

Those prominent in the supply, manufacture and servicing of telecommunications equipment throughout the world will be exhibiting in Bahrain this week in the hope of acquiring a foothold in one of the most potentially lucrative markets in the world still free to open competition.

At least that is the theory. The Arab world, Africa, South America and parts of the Far East are the commercial jewels in the crown of the global telecommunications market being sought by most of the principal suppliers.

In theory the American market in telecommunications is open to any competitor but the commercial clout of companies can make it difficult for the smaller, more modest, operator.

The Japanese until recently have had no desire to allow their telecommunications equipment supply contracts in the public service industries to be open to foreign competition. A recent agreement between the

Americans and the Japanese may alter that balance but it is early days.

In Europe the markets have been controlled by the Post, Telephone and Telegraph Authorities (PTTs) of the respective countries. In Britain it is the Post Office, shortly to be split into Telecommunications and Posts and Giro.

The millions of pounds expected to be available in the Arab world as the countries develop their telecommunications are luring the world's manufacturers.

Saudi Arabia and Egypt are undoubtedly among the front runners in their efforts to modernize. Ericsson, Philips, Bell Canada and the nationalized telecommunications company have picked up multi-million dollar contracts in Saudi Arabia and Egypt recently.

Invariably the politics of a particular government can colour its view of foreign competitors in the Arab market. On the whole American and European manufacturers and suppliers have done well, among them being Cable & Wireless, the American company Western Elec-

tric, Citi-Alcatel, Thomson-CSF of France and Siemens of Germany.

British Telecom will be prominent among the British contingent in Bahrain. The corporation's consultancy service, EPO Teleconsult, over the years has been gaining a reputation overseas for impartial judgments on telecommunications, despite its association with the Post Office (British Telecom) and its 224,000 managerial and technical staff.

All aspects of telecommunications will be displayed by it in Bahrain exhibiting the expertise available from the British Post Office which covers all the activities needed effectively to finance, operate, develop and maintain one of the world's largest communications systems.

The corporation is marketing the export knowledge much needed in the Arab world, which has been gained by operating one of the world's largest networks—25 million telephones, growing at the rate of a million a year—and supported by a staff of 120,000 engineers. British Telecom's emphasis

is that it will recommend non-British equipment if it is the best for the job.

British Telecom will be showing the products that it has developed with the British telecommunications equipment manufacturers among them GEC, STC, Plessey and Plessey.

The new digital exchange equipment of British Telecom—System X—inaugurated in the United Kingdom last September in a London exchange will be marketed by British Telecommunications Systems, a company jointly owned by British Telecom, Plessey, GEC and STC, the creators and manufacturers of the design.

Other Britons have high hopes, among them S.I.C. showing general telecommunication equipment, Hawker Siddeley showing power supplies, Racal Milgo with data communications equipment and the British arm of the Canadian company Mitel.

Bill Johnston

Arabsat launch this decade

The sheer size of the Arab world makes it the ideal candidate to harness the technological advances being made in satellite and fibre optic communication.

The vast distances to be covered the extreme conditions in which the equipment is expected to function correctly and consistently, together with the provision requiring minimum maintenance, are all classic conditions in which to test the versatility of the new technologies.

The Arab states are no strangers to using satellites for communication. Throughout the Arab world—Addis Ababa, Djibouti, Aden, Khartoum, Jeddah, Riyadh, Dubai, Kuwait, Tehran, Baghdad, Damascus and Amman, among others—earth stations link the respective telecommunications networks to the Intelsat complex of satellites around the globe.

The International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (Intelsat) was formed in 1964. The first satellite was put into orbit over the Atlantic in 1965. Since then there have been several more put into geostationary orbit 22,000 miles above the earth.

The latest, Intelsat V, was launched from Cape Canaveral in Florida on 10 January. It is the first of a series of these satellites

December 4 and provided the most advanced technology available in satellite communication linking the Arab world by way of the network to the United States.

The programme has 10 satellites in orbit around the world in geostationary positions over the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Oceans. Three were launched in 1967, four between 1968 and 1970 and the remainder over the next decade.

But the Arab world is looking closely at the idea of using satellite communication for local or regional communication instead of transatlantic or intercontinental communication.

The latest project is called Arabsat—a satellite to be launched about 1984 by the Arab Satellite Communication Organization with a capacity for 17,000 telephone channels and a further eight for television transmission. The satellite will be substantially in size since Intelsat has a capacity for 12,000 telephone channels and two television channels on simultaneous transmission. That satellite has twice the capacity of its predecessors.

About 1983-84 most of the European nations are involved in launching satellites. The European Commission on 10 January 1981

among the prime bidders for the Arabsat contract, expected to be worth \$134m.

The European Telecommunications Satellite Council (Eutelsat), representing 19 European nations, plans to launch two satellites in 1983. These satellites will have facilities for private data transmission as well as a capacity for carrying 12,500 telephone circuits.

The prime contractor is British Aerospace which has placed a bid for the Arabsat contract.

The French intend to launch a low-powered satellite in 1983 which could provide limited transmission facilities outside France. The project, called Telecom 90, is its prime contractor, which has bid with British Aerospace jointly for Arabsat, along with Thomson-CSF of France.

The other bidders include Aerospatiale of France (involved in building Intelsat V), Hughes and RCA of the United States and SPAR Aerospace of Canada.

Optical fibre cabling is also likely to play a significant role in the future of all communication networks around the world but particularly in those countries like the Arab states where maintenance can be a problem.

This cable will replace

the copper coaxial that now covers the vast distances between the major cities. Examples are Cairo to Djibouti, Aden to Jeddah, Cairo and Abu Dhabi to Aden. The fibre optic cable, although still at the test stage of its development, could provide greater transmission capacity without the need for signals to be boosted.

The fibre is effectively a minute glass strand, about the width of a human hair, and has, at least in theory, an extremely large bandwidth. In other words the amount of information it can carry is substantially more than conventional cabling.

The minute fibre is able to carry several hundred times more information than a copper cable and can carry those signals further without much of the quality of those signals deteriorating. Copper cabling needs signal amplification every two to three kilometres, whereas an optical fibre can easily carry signals for 10km without the need for amplification.

In the case of countries where it is extremely difficult to gain access rapidly to conventional terrestrial cable routes, the economics of the satellite and the fibre optic can then be seen.

B.J.

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Television is still growing

continued from page 17

offer sufficient operational and management skills to accept it—assuming of course that a supplier is, in the first place, willing to co-operate.

There is not an abundance of technically competent and scientifically trained people in the Arab world. Provision of technical training and en-

couragement of those who are trained to stay in their jobs by career advancement schemes, is one of the biggest challenges faced by PTT administrations in the developing world. The pride of possessing advanced telecommunications systems can pale if a pool of a country's own citizens cannot be found to operate them.



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Capitalization and week's change

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

o Ex dividend, a Ex all, b Forecast dividend, c Corrected price, e interim payment paid, f Price at suspension, g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment, h Bid for repurchase, i Pro-forma figure, j Forecast earnings, k Ex capital distribution, l Ex stock, m Ex term of share split, i Tax fr., y Price adjusted for late dealings, .. No significant data.

by the dairies
e still
vesting in
Hk, page 22

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

مكتبة الأصول

Holiday trade
dispute over
travel shops,
page 23

Stock markets

FT Ind 466.3
FT Gilt 69.21

Sterling
\$ 2.3670
Index 81.1

Dollar
Index 89.5
DM 2.1283

Gold

\$506.50

Money

3 month sterling 141.14
3 month Euro 171.17
6 month Euro 162.16
Friday's close

5m NEB

Plans aimed
at small
companies

Plans to establish a novel scheme aimed directly at small manufacturing companies have been submitted to Sir Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, by the National Enterprise Board.

The NEB intends to launch a scheme through a new subsidiary towards the end of this month and up to £5m has been allocated. If the scheme is approved by the Government, companies in England will be able to apply for up to £50,000.

Formulation of the new loans scheme is in line with the government's revised guidelines for the NEB.

The loans are designed to stimulate the growth of small manufacturing businesses particularly in the technology sector, and are aimed at higher risk projects.

Call for monitoring of EEC legislation

The Confederation of British Industry has called on the European Commission to monitor Community laws more closely and avoid imposing too many unnecessary laws and regulations. A CBI study, published today, supports membership of the EEC but is highly critical of the Community's performance.

British Aerospace shares will sell

British Aerospace is expected to have no difficulty in raising £50m cash from the sale of a large minority of its shares after details of the prospectus are announced at the end of this week. The group, at present entirely state-owned, is enjoying a buoyant period in its activities which include guided weapons, supersonic fighters, and business aircraft.

Triplex jobs cutback

Triplex, the toughened glass and windscreen company, is to make 600 people redundant over the next two years. The company, a subsidiary of Pilkington Glass, employs 700 people in Birmingham and 1,300 at its headquarters at Ecclestone, St Helens, Lancashire.

US to build Renaults

A tentative agreement has been reached under which Renault cars will be produced at the American Motors Corporation plant in Kenosha, Wisconsin, according to the United Auto Workers' union.

Soviet crop shortfall

The Soviet Union looks set for another mediocre grain crop in 1981, according to the International Wheat Council. Winter grain plantings in the USSR are officially estimated at 84.32 million acres against the target of 91.76 million acres.

Unctad gold plan

The establishment of a gold account for development, based on IMF gold holdings, is proposed in Trade and Development, the review produced by Unctad, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.

Iran debt lawsuit

Dresser Industries, a United States oil equipment company, has gone to court to have the unfreezing of Iranian assets declared unconstitutional.

More Venezuelan oil

Venezuela's oil production for last week averaged 2,187,000 barrels a day, a slight increase from the previous week. Production this year has averaged 2.3 per cent higher than 1980 levels.

Budget may shift taxation burden from industrial to financial sector

By David Blake
Economics Editor

A fundamental switch in government tax priorities is now under consideration for the next Budget. Ministers are believed to be considering a switch in taxation which would benefit the industrial sector at the expense of financial and corporate parts of the economy.

At the same time a cut in interest rates is thought to be under consideration.

A drop in interest rates is likely to be one of the subjects raised at a meeting between the Prime Minister and Sir Jeremy Morse, representing the Committee of London Clearing Bankers, later today. Mrs Thatcher is known to be highly critical of the part which the clearing banks have played in expanding the money supply over the last few months.

She also complained of the attitudes adopted by the clearing banks over the past 12 months. The Prime Minister has not forgotten the role which the banks played in allowing the average wage rates to rise significantly during 1979 and 1980. She is thought to be particularly aware of the knock-on effect which this had on the public sector pay.

There is also the problem of clearing bank profits, which are thought to be particularly significant in the light of the high nominal interest rates which now prevail.

However, such problems still are thought to leave a "windfall" tax on bank profits as no more than an even bet. The widely varying profit performance of each of the four clearing banks is one contributory factor.

So too is the fact that all of the clearing banks have played their part in supporting the manufacturing sector over the past few months.

This means that the auditors have built up a pattern of support for industry which could call into question the validity of their apparent profit figures.

Within the Government, there has been an unusual role reversal on how to deal with the banking and financial sector.

The Bank of England has taken a strong line in favour of the clearing banks, arguing that they have defended the interests of industry. At the same time, it has belittled the banks into supporting industrial companies.

On the other hand, ministers traditionally thought of as being right wing, such as Mr Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, have argued for higher taxes on banks.

They argue that the policy of holding down inflation through tight control of the money supply involves a "windfall" profit for the banks through high interest rates.

Such profit is thought to be equivalent to the profits earned from the North Sea by oil companies which benefit from oil price rises in which they play no part.

Italy curbs credit to defend currency

From John Earle,
Rome, Feb 1

Italy has announced a series of credit restrictions to defend the lira against mounting pressures.

The currency is under the strain of an estimated \$19,000m (£7,317m) trade deficit for 1980, the highest inflation in the European Community at over 21 per cent, and a steady slide in the dollar exchange rate which on Friday crossed the psychological barrier of 1,000 lire. Sterling also closed at a record 2,389 lire.

The Treasury Ministry and the Bank of Italy announced that with effect from March foreign borrowings to finance imports must not surpass the lower limit of December 31. Any excess will be subject to a 50 per cent non-interest bearing deposit with the Bank of Italy, at the exchange rate obtaining on December 31. Foreign exchange borrowing to finance exports however will be exempt from the limits.

In 1981, credit expansion in lira must not exceed 12 per cent. The Bank of Italy will continue with the present system of monthly ceilings on domestic credit expansion, rising from 2 per cent at the end of April (over December 31, 1980) to 12 per cent at the end of next December.

Altogether, the authorities are prepared to allow a 13 per cent rise in both lira and foreign currency lending this year.

Senator Nino Andreatta, the Treasury Minister, said that the Treasury was expecting growth in real terms of 1.5 per cent was still possible this year, while inflation should fall from about 22 per cent to 15 per cent.

Unions and CBI seek industry boost

By Patricia Tisdall
Management Correspondent

Fresh efforts to persuade the Prime Minister and her Cabinet colleagues to ease economic controls will be made this week at a meeting of the National Economic Development Council.

Wednesday's meeting, with Mrs Thatcher taking the chair, is to resume the three-way discussions on macro-economic matters which began shortly after the present Government came into office. Papers from the CBI, the TUC and the National Economic Development Council will be considered each of which expresses acute concern about erosion of the industrial base.

TUC leaders are expected to call for an injection of over £50,000m of public funds as an immediate step towards industrial recovery. Union proposals will be spelled out fully in the TUC's annual economic review, which is to be published later today. These will include a support package for private industry as well as increased spending on public sector investment projects.

In debating their case, TUC leaders are expected to stress the impact of present policies on unemployment and the necessity to prevent jobless

totals from rising further. TUC projections are that a continuation of present policies would lead to a further one million people out of work during the next 12 months while even a stimulus of £5,000m would only hold unemployment at its present level.

While there is no question of a formal alliance against the Government there is agreement between the CBI and TUC leaders that some alleviation for industry is needed. The strategy document initiated by Sir Terence Beckett, the CBI's director general, will not be published until next month. However, the changes industrialists believe are needed in the short term are catalogued in pre-Budget submissions to be published tomorrow.

The CBI, while supporting the overall drive against inflation, wants a further immediate cut in interest rates. It also wants a reduction in the employer's National Insurance surcharge, which it regards as a payroll tax; help on energy costs, and measures to encourage investment. Above all, CBI leaders are expected to stress the adverse impact the high exchange rate is having on industry performance and profits.

Unless British industry can compete internationally, the



Sir Terence Beckett: seeking further cut in loan rates...

CBI argues, it will not be able to generate enough profits to increase investment and create employment. There are also considerable fears among industrialists that the shakeout in labour and companies during the past year has caused an irrevocable long term damage.

CBI leaders are conscious that their members could do more to help themselves, but argue that the benefits will take time to show. Sir Raymond Penock, the president, who as well as Sir Terence will be present

at Wednesday's meeting, said last week that "setting the economic balance right is essential if we are to get business moving out of the present rut of recession. But that does not remove the onus from us to make ourselves more efficient".

This will be the first formal meeting between Sir Terence and the Prime Minister since an interview immediately after the CBI's national conference. Sir Terence's promise of a "bare knuckle fight" in his closing speech led to several resignations from the CBI, publicly exposing the split between industrialists who do not want the Government to ease the monetarist clampdown and those who feel it has already been held for too long.

Sir Terence and Sir Raymond will need to convince Mrs Thatcher that they represent the views of the majority of industrialists on Wednesday. Though radical policy changes are unlikely, the Prime Minister may be prepared to make modifications to meet some of the employers' demands on issues such as energy pricing and incentives for new research and development projects.

A powerful influencing factor may be the arguments put up by the NEDO for "positive adjustment" policies and selective aid to industry, particularly in high technology areas.

Norwegians press for separate gas pipeline

By Nicholas Hirst
Energy Correspondent

Norway's state oil company, Statoil, is putting strong pressure on the Norwegian Government to agree to its plan to develop a gas-gathering pipeline system independent of the £2,000m project planned to link 12 fields in the British sector of the North Sea.

The partners in Statoil, the largest Norwegian oil field which has extensive associated gas reserves, have decided to recommend a pipeline system which would deliver wet gases for petrochemical production to Norway and dry gases for commercial, industrial and domestic heating to a terminal at Emden in West Germany.

But the plan involves pipelines crossing the deep Norwegian trench, an expensive and technically complicated operation which would be avoided if the Norwegian gas was sold to the British Gas Corporation and delivered to Britain.

Despite relatively high recent offers for Norwegian gas,

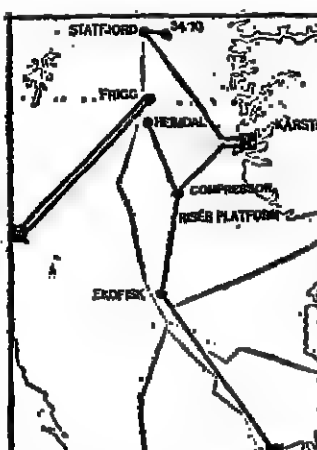
British Gas's reputation as a "misery" monopoly buyer has discouraged the Norwegian consortiums from delivering to Britain and encouraged them to pursue contracts with a gas-hungry Europe.

Initially the Norwegian pipeline planned to collect gas from the Heimdal and Statfjord fields and the gas associated with oil in the so-called "golden block" 34/10. Partners in the Heimdal field, which contains mostly dry gases are like the Statfjord partners pressing for an all-Norwegian system.

Together the three fields would deliver 8,000 cubic metres per year to a terminal at Karsto on the Norwegian coast.

The British scheme is now estimated to cost twice as much, and as it is to go ahead at the same time as the Norwegian plan, would create intense pressure on pipe and other manufacturers.

A link between the two systems is likely to be agreed, giving both sectors flexibility in marketing the gas, but there



Norway's planned North Sea gas pipeline.

can be no doubt that there is strong disappointment on the British side that most of the Norwegian gas looks likely to be landed on the Continent. The addition of the Norwegian supplies to the British system would have greatly improved its economics and would have eased the problems of meeting future demand.

The British scheme has proved far more difficult to finance than was originally planned.

Move to inject cash into BPC

By Philip Robinson

Mr Robert Maxwell, director of BPC, in which he has a 29.5 stake, is expected to meet officials of the National Westminster Bank this week to discuss arrangements involving fresh capital being injected into Europe's largest printing group.

Both sides confirmed last night that discussions were at an advanced stage, but would not say whether the package would include Mr Maxwell's private Pergamon Press publishing empire taking convertible loan stock or that the bank might convert some of the overdrafts into BPC equity.

Mr Maxwell now has an office in BPC's headquarters and is working closely with Mr Peter Robinson, BPC's chairman.

City speculation is that, if Mr Maxwell is successful, he could take BPC into private ownership and perhaps return later with a combined BPC-Pergamon Press for a full Stock Market quotation.

Duport to press case on steelmaking crisis

By Peter Hill
Industrial Editor

Talks crucial to the survival of an important part of the independent steel industry will take place tomorrow at the Department of Industry.

A senior representative of Duport, the Midlands steel and engineering group, and Hadfield, the Loughborough steel making group, will emphasize to Sir Keith Joseph, the Industry Secretary, the gravity of the crisis facing private steel makers catering for the engineering industry.

Both companies, together with Round Oak, the steel company owned jointly by the British Steel Corporation and TI and GKN figure in draft plans drawn up by Sir Keith's department for rationalization of the engineering steel sector which would also embrace the BSC's operations in the same market.

Codenamed Phoenix Two, discussions on this venture have made considerably less progress than those on Phoenix One, the rationalization plan which

would bring together the steel mill, bars and wire rod facilities of the BSC and GKN in a joint company. Its formation may be announced by GKN later this week.

Phoenix Two faces serious problems. Sir Keith is anxious to refer to discussions aimed at eliminating the areas of overlap between the public and private sectors in the engineering sector when he announces the Government's decision on the BSC's corporate plan later this month.

Duport, whose half-year losses were £4.7m and which according to City estimates has been losing about £1m a month since the recession began, has been the subject of persistent speculation. Last week its share price fell to an all-time low of 7p before a modest improvement to 12p. The group is capitalized at £294m. Last month the Bank of England became involved in discussions between the company and its bankers.

Duport has steelmaking facilities at Llanelli in south Wales and in the Midlands.

Rome ban on Sony televisions from Wales

By Derek Harris
Commercial Editor

Italian customs officials have banned distribution in Italy of a consignment of television sets assembled at the Bridgend, Glamorgan, factory of Sony, the Japanese electronics company. The officials claim the sets do not appear to meet the Community definition of an EEC-made product as being assembled from at least 45 per cent in value of EEC-source components.

There are fears that it could signal an attempt by Italy to squeeze out of the market of television sets assembled in Britain by Japanese makers. Matsushita is the other Japanese electronics manufacturer assembling sets in Britain which would be most at risk if this proved to be Italian policy.

Intervention by the Department of Trade has raised hopes at Sony that the sets may be released soon, but negotiations by the department with the Italians are still going on. Sony already has around £1m worth of Bridgend sets at risk which it could not sell elsewhere because they are specially made to be compatible with the Italian television system.

Sony, which has been exporting to Italy for five years, shipped 19,000 sets in the country last year, all made at Bridgend. These were 20-inch and 22-inch colour sets in which European component sourcing was high.

Sony was expected to sell around 16,500 sets in Italy this year. It had started to sell 27-inch sets which until the year-end will have Japanese-made tubes. A £10m factory at Bridgend will be producing 27-inch tubes later this year. It is a consignment of 1,400 of the 27-inch colour sets which is being held up at a warehouse near Milan with the Italian officials apparently claiming that some components were made by other European electronics companies, although they would normally be classed as a European product, have been partly processed outside the EEC.

If the Italians pursued a new system of classification for component sourcing and continued to ban the Sony sets, the only option left to Sony would be to take the issue to the European Court where it could become an important test case.

Ministers unlikely to outlaw price fixing

By John Huxley

Ministers are expected to decide soon whether to introduce legislation which would make collusive tendering—otherwise known as price fixing—a criminal offence.

Indications are that they may finally be won over by arguments that to do so would reduce the authorities' success in detecting collusion by deterring would-be informants.

The subject has been under consideration by this and previous governments for several years, and was discussed in a consultative document published by Mrs Sally Oppenheim, Minister for Consumer Affairs, last July.

Collusive tendering is the practice whereby companies or individuals bidding for work agree beforehand which of their number shall win a contract and structure their tenders accordingly.

In the past it has proved difficult to detect. Arrangements are made in secret and written records are unlikely to be kept. As the consultative document made clear: "Evidence is unlikely to come to light unless a party to the arrangement or a disgruntled former member of the 'party' decides to break rank."

The Government accepts that collusion strikes at the roots of fair competition, and may be objected to on both economic and ethical grounds. "On an economic level it entails a loss of efficiency and a financial burden on the consumer, ultimately the consumer or taxpayer. On an ethical level, it involved deception for financial gain," the consultative paper states.

At present collusive tendering is covered by restrictive practices law which requires that any such agreement be registered with the Director General of Fair Trading. It is



Mrs Oppenheim: general review promised of legislation.

open to those affected by the operation of the pact to seek civil damages, but no criminal penalties follow from failure to declare and register agreements. It has been found that the pursuit of civil damages is both time consuming, expensive and uncertain in its result.

Pressure to make collusive tendering a criminal offence has grown in recent years, largely as a result of restrictive practices in the construction industry and in the supply of electrical and mechanical services and telephone cables.

As the consultative document says: "Whether the practice is of stock or the service, it makes sense to give to tell. What is certain is that it has not died but shows no signs of doing so."

Apart from problems over definition, the Government believes there is a risk that detection would become more difficult if it became a criminal offence, as this would deter would-be informants.

Mrs Oppenheim has already suggested collusive tendering should form part of a general review of restrictive practices legislation. It looks likely that she will decide to tackle the problem by strengthening the powers of the Office of Fair Trading.

New Treasury chief set to cut taxes for the rich to help the poor Man in a hurry to change US economy

Mr Donald Regan, United States Secretary of the Treasury, is in a hurry to launch an era of economic conservatism. He is determined to shake up what he views as an economy "stuck in the mud".

Mr Regan has been in office for just over a week. Already, he has held many budget meetings, testified before Congress, made key departmental appointments, talked at length with the press and booked February 30 for a major speech to the National Press Club.

It is not vanity and the quest for power alone that drive Mr Regan now and made him decide to give up the chairmanship of Merrill Lynch, the brokerage conglomerate. He took his new post out of deep conviction that drastic changes were needed in United States economic policy and that his doctrines must be given a try.

He asserts that he is a pragmatist, but every sentence he utters underscores the depth of his capitalist conviction. He readily admits that the Reagan administration's attitudes fall closely into line with the views espoused by Adam Smith over 200 years ago. "We are free market people," he declares.

He makes every opportunity to talk of the hardships of capital gains tax and the need to cut the rate down to 20 per cent from the present 28 per cent. When income tax is discussed, he first turns to the need to chop the very top levels. He sees absolutely nothing unfair or inequitable about his tax approach that will provide far greater cash tax reductions to the wealthy, than to people on low incomes.

Savings must be increased and those most able to, save are the wealthy, so it makes sense to give them big tax cuts. The reductions in capital gains tax will stimulate venture capitalists, strengthen the equity markets and promote private investment. Such views unsurprisingly come from a man who found fame and fortune on Wall Street.

Mr Regan is not an uncaring or uncompromising man. He simply believes that the poor can best be helped by stimulating economic growth through bigger private investment and far less governmental management of economic affairs. The rewards for cutting welfare payments and United States budget and greater chances for private companies to borrow more funds for productive investment.

Unashamedly the Reagan administration, through Mr Regan and the budget director, Mr David Stockman, is going to campaign ruthlessly on behalf of the trickle-down theory. Increase the size of the cake on the table of the entrepreneur and the workers will obtain a few more crumbs.

The same approach guides international affairs. The argument that will be made about sharp cuts in foreign aid will be that this, over time, will help poor countries, because the budget savings in the United States will produce a healthier world economy, where all nations will prosper.

It remains to be seen whether Congress will buy the programme so long advocated by the *Wall Street Journal* and now being fashioned by Mr Regan. The new policy statements may well read like the *Journal's* leading articles now that Mr Regan has appointed Mr Paul Craig Roberts, a former *Journal* editor, as Assistant Treasury Secretary for Economic Policy.

The new Treasury chief did not give up the comforts of Wall Street for the role of public office without deep thought about his chances for winning. He means to cut public spending and tax rates and get the economy moving. America must "bite the bullet," he told a congressional committee, adding that "come hell or high water," the budget deficits will be eliminated.

Right now Mr Regan's sole preoccupation is domestic economics. Sort out the mess on the home front and tackling global monetary and trade and investment issues will be much simpler. He played a leading role in developing Merrill Lynch's large international operations and he is perfectly at ease talking about Eurocurrencies and Special Drawing Rights.

He will make his mark on the foreign front later, for now he and the Reagan administration intend to have a full-scale budget programme, covering this year and next year, before the Congress in less than three weeks.

Frank Vogl
in Washington

Sharp rise in US spending makes Reagan task harder

By Our United States
Economics Correspondent

Washington, Feb 1

The Reagan Administration's task of balancing this year's United States Budget has been made harder by recent sharp rises in public spending. New data compiled by the congressional budget office show that outlays will total at least \$650,000m (£279,660m) rather than the \$630,000m expected when the last session of Congress ended in early December.

The swift rise with which the public spending total in the United States is rising has prompted President Reagan to declare that the Budget is now out of control.

About one-third of the increased spending estimate, totalling \$10,100m, is owing to increases in outlays caused by specific additional spending programmes, but fully \$15,100m of the gain in spending is on account of changes in economic conditions and other developments that Congress has little control over, the budget office said.

The catalogue of sudden boosts in spending is long and it makes it look most probable that the deficit for this fiscal year will be well over \$60,000m and that the \$650,000m spending total now being used by the budget office may well be increased.

OUT **IEA** TODAY

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	Bank buys	Bank sells		Bank buys	Bank sells
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Austria Sch	37.00	35.00	Portugal Esc	137.00	129.00
Belgium Fr	85.00	79.50	South Africa R	2.20	2.05
Canada \$	2.92	2.84	Spain Pes	202.00	195.50
Denmark Kr	16.00	15.30	Sweden Kr	11.30	10.80
Finland Mark	9.90	9.30	Switzerland Fr	4.72	4.49
France Fr	11.90	11.40	USA \$	2.44	2.37
Germany Dm	5.38	4.95	Yugoslavia Dnr	89.00	84.00
Greece Dr	125.00	115.00			
Hong Kong \$	12.95	12.35			
Ireland Pt	1.38	1.33			
Italy Lir	2495.00	2385.00			
Japan Yen	513.00	487.00			
Netherlands Gld	5.62	5.38			

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MANAGEMENT

Edited by Andrew Goodrick-Clarke

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why the dairies are still putting money into milk

What tempts an entire industry to invest more money in a market that is steadily declining in volume terms and is also under threat from cut price competition from abroad? The British dairy industry has seen its volume sales of drinking milk fall by about 2 per cent a year and now an EEC inquiry threatens to open Britain to a flood of cheap European milk.

Yet most of the major dairy companies have spent large sums of money on new capital investment over the past three years, and are planning to spend more in the future. Unigate has invested £10m in a new dairy at Chesham, Bucks, in Essex, which claims it is the most modern in the world. It is now likely to spend a further £18m on a new dairy in the West Midlands and is spending £2.5m modernising and expanding its dairy at Luton, Bedfordshire.

Express Dairy, part of Grand Metropolitan, has spent more than £2m revamping its dairy at Morden in South London and is about to embark on a similar programme at Crickwood in north London.

Associated Dairies has re-equipped its dairy at Leeds, expanded its van sales service and made other investments.

Mr Paul Guillemet, managing director of Express Dairy Milk, is convinced that the industry ought to be able to halt the decline in consumption by better marketing. Milk roundsmen, he believes, could be better motivated to persuade people to buy more of the product. Also, much could be done to make customers aware of the different kinds of milk available.

Mr Guillemet's main concern, however, is price. Milk is a price-sensitive product, he says, and in recent years its cost has been going up faster than that of living generally. If price increases in milk could be kept back to reasonable levels, he believes, there would be a good chance of halting the decline in milk drinking.

Milk prices are controlled by the Government, and pricing policy is out of the hands of the dairies. But what is within their control is costs.

Mr Guillemet points out that it costs just as much to deliver one pint of milk to a doorstep as four, so it is vital that demand for home-delivered milk be kept up. He is considering the idea of adding delivery charges in those areas where there is a very low average consumption per household. But he is cautious about taking this too far because milk consumption per head in Britain is far higher than in other countries where there is no home delivery system. Countries

that have recently dropped home deliveries have seen a dramatic collapse in milk drinking per head.

At Unigate, Mr Chris Ball, managing director of the milk division, is also concerned with price, but from a different viewpoint. Unigate's view is that new dairy investment is largely dependent on the Government's allowing a higher price for milk. Last year it threatened to hold up a decision on its £18m West Midlands dairy investment until the Government agreed a big increase in the price of milk. This puts Unigate in a position almost opposite to that of Express Dairies. Higher prices will give the profits that justify the investment, Unigate believes. Worries that those increases will cut volume further do not figure prominently in Unigate thinking.

Like Express, however, Unigate is concerned about the costs of operating its distribution network. One way that this is being done is by looking at ways of merging milk distribution with Unigate's other food interests. St Ivel and Scott Bowers. The three companies already work together through a new joint company in the North of England, Unigate Chill Distribution.

The need to cut costs is one of the unspoken reasons behind the move towards larger, computer-controlled dairies. They employ fewer people per pint of milk produced, and, if volume can be kept up, are bound to be more profitable. This is hardly surprising. Looked at crudely, a dairy is not very

much more than a bottling line. To be sure, a lot of laboratory testing and cooling is carried out. But the product arrives to a large extent already manufactured.

The only problem is that fewer, larger dairies mean that the bottles or cartons of milk have to be driven longer distances to get to the doorstep, not a good thing in a period of soaring fuel costs.

Much of the £10m that Express is spending on dairy equipment is designed to take advantage of its new "pintle" bottle. Compared with its existing bottle it can get 10 per cent more of these on a lorry.

The dairy companies are aware that the market is declining, and almost all the new investment is aimed at replacing older, inefficient labour-intensive plants rather than on expanding production. Because of this, Mr Ball says, the investments do not always stand up on their own from the point of view of return on capital.

"But it is against our policy to create overcapacity. We avoid that like the plague."

But if the market is declining so fast, why are the EEC producers so keen to invade it and why are the British companies so keen to invest more in it? The answer is that for all its long-term decline, there is still big money in the dairy industry. The average household still spends more than 60p per head a week on milk. This is about 10 per cent of its total spending on food and more than is spent on any other food category.

Roger Hardman



A milkman on his rounds in Britain: countries where home deliveries have stopped have experienced a sharp fall in milk consumption.

Stock relief: still not the right answer?

A further hazard is faced this year by companies trying to meet their annual accounts on time. It is the latest episode in the chequered history of stock relief.

In November the Government issued a consultative paper outlining the proposals it intends to introduce in the 1981 Finance Bill.

The final legislation is expected to be along similar lines and will apply to all companies where accounting periods end after November 14, 1980.

Thus companies with December year-ends will have to decide whether to calculate their stock relief on the old or new basis when preparing the figures for the tax charge in their annual accounts for this year. Although they can choose whether to calculate the relief on the old or new basis, any increase in the value of stocks between November 14 and the year end will be disregarded even if the new proposals are ignored.

The new relief is designed to eliminate weaknesses which the Government believed were inherent in the old scheme. Stock relief was introduced to give some measure of relief from inflation it was thought unfair to give relief for increases in volume of stocks held, especially as the system was revised from the basis of stock levels at the year end.

Relief will now be geared to the effects of price changes on stocks held at the start of a company's accounting period.

For administrative reasons the actual price changes of any particular stock item cannot be used, relief being based on an average index which will be produced by the Government.

This arbitrary method of granting relief will work harshly where a company has high stock levels of a commodity whose price has risen more sharply than the average over the year.

One advantage of the new method of relief is that it virtually eliminates the likelihood of any drawback of past relief. The relief based on the stock values it will be given even where the book value of stock has fallen since the end of the previous accounting period. Under the new proposals, a drawback can only occur where a business ceases or where stocks are reduced to a level which is close to cessation.

The Government has unfortunately not defined what type of situation it has in mind

here, but it is presumably meant to cover such things as the hiring off of part of a company's activities.

One interesting result is that there will, in most cases, be no further need for a deferred tax provision to account for stock relief previously received. It seems that companies can now release any deferred tax provisions relating to such relief to their profit and loss accounts, thus giving them an unexpected boost.

In the past, the Government has been upset about the benefits gained from stock relief by companies which financed their stocks out of borrowings. It felt that companies such as the large supermarket chains whose turnover is fast enough to allow them to sell stock before they had paid for it were receiving relief for inflationary costs they did not have to bear.

For this reason, the relief is to be reduced by a fraction designed to determine the extent to which stocks are financed by credit. However, the restriction will be applied only to larger companies whose stock values exceed £1m.

It has been obvious since the introduction of stock relief in 1975 that the system needed review. But the proposals in the Government paper seem to

'The proposals in the government paper seem to be designed for ease of administration rather than as a serious attempt at finding the best solution to the problem'

Clare Watson

Insurance's graven image and its ancient ethic

From Mr M. E. M. Pearson, Sir, Insurance, the world's second oldest profession, is an activity whereby the misfortunes of the few are spread over the fortunes of the many. In recent times, however, the industry has forsaken the true god of underwriting, the graven image of profit for cashflow, the investment which appears ever more attractive than the ancient ethic of insurance.

Since the last war we have seen rising stock markets, soaring property values, inflation and now a strong pound coupled with high interest rates. Small wonder then that more and more financiers have been tempted to play the insurance game, with the result that world market capacity continues to expand, that the competition to drive rates down and that underwriter power dwindles as broker power grows relentlessly more rapacious.

This is the disease of the international finance market today. It will be cured only

when underwriting loss overtakes investment gain.

I would have thought that most External Names at Lloyd's would do well to consider their position against this background. Doubtless, the vast majority of them are well looked after by their agents, but paragraph 9, 02 of the Fisher Report provides an irrefutable charter for the existence of Lady Middleton's Association, as follows:

"The relationship between Name and Agent is not an equal one and not all Names are able to secure proper treatment. The arguments against Names can be 'shop around' among Agents and can leave an Agent with whom he is dissatisfied seems to us to be somewhat unrealistic, particularly in view of the paucity of information available to Names. It is the duty of Agents and of Syndicates. Complaints made by our witnesses have centred on the information available to prospective Names, and the Accounts and other information furnished by Agents to their Names (particularly in

formation about the progress of the open years)."

External Names do not work in the market place and the therefore incapable of judging the possible significance of a lengthening queue of broker writers' box. Indeed, many of them who read this will not even know what I am talking about, in which case I advise them to join Lady Middleton's Association quickly.

Agents who take proper care of their Names have nothing to fear from her, but the new council will need all the help it can get in dealing with those few that don't. So let us have no more blimpish abuse of stage against her; she is a brave and honourable woman and, if it is humble enough to listen to her, she will do Lloyd's nothing but good.

Yours faithfully,
MALCOLM PEARSON,
Pearson Webb Springbett
(International) Ltd,
Adelaide House,
London Bridge,
London EC4R 9AD.

British Telecom monopoly

From Mr Stuart Isaacs, Sir, As chairman of the British Insurance Brokers' Association, Mr Ian Findlay is doubtless aware of the EEC's long-term interest in the creation of a unified Community-wide insurance market. His concern about the Post Office monopoly in relation to telecommunications equipment (January 26) should also be appreciated in a Community-wide perspective.

The Treaty of Rome, article 90(1), expressly forbids members of states in the case of public undertakings and undertakings to which they grant special or exclusive rights either to enact

or to maintain in force any measure contrary, amongst other things, to the Community's competition rules.

Even if British Telecom is properly to be regarded as entrusted with the operation of services of general economic interest or having the character of a revenue-producing monopoly, so that the application of the competition rules must not obstruct the performance of its tasks, article 90(2) still says that the development of trade must not be affected to such an extent as would conflict with the interests of the Community.

Designing the ideal small ship

From Mr D. Laurent Giles, Sir, One can only applaud the work of Mr Tattersall (January 27) and Vesper Hovermarine in their efforts to improve the deep sea operation of the Hovercraft principle and one must sympathise with the difficulty in obtaining serious MoD interest in such projects in this country. It is with good reason I am consistently being told by my friends in the United States that we are the R & D department of the world.

However, with a more enlightened attitude to new ideas and the improvement of hull design—as implied in Mr Julian Taylor's interesting article

(November 27)—I do not think it need necessarily be correct to say that "the higher performance displacement ship is still prohibitively expensive above 30 knots".

As Mr Taylor said, the traditional hull form requires increased length (and therefore cost) to provide higher speeds and sea-keeping qualities. Alas, they also necessitate a relatively narrow beam which, in the context of modern warships, means expensive hull structure and aluminium superstructure.

However, a more enlightened attitude to new ideas and the improvement of hull design—as implied in Mr Julian Taylor's interesting article

Public and Educational Appointments

University College of Swansea

Lecturer

Applications are invited for a vacancy of Lecturer in the Department of Computer Science. Candidates should have a first or good second class honours degree in mathematics, computer science, or a related discipline, subject together with substantial postgraduate research experience. Applications are welcome from candidates with research interests in any area of computer science but those whose speciality is artificial intelligence or the development of expert systems will be given particular consideration.

The appointment will date from 1 September, 1981, and will be made at the lower end of the salary scale of £5,505-£11,575 per annum.

Closing date for applications, Friday 27 February, 1981.

Senior Research Assistant

Applications are invited for the post of Senior Research Assistant in the Department of Oceanography and Anthropology, to work on an SSRC funded project on the social consequences of redundancy in steel. The person appointed will be required to undertake a study of the local steelworks and domestic organizations of a panel of families or workers who have been made redundant from the steel industry in South West Wales, and who are respondents in the project's major survey of redundant workers.

The appointment, which will commence from the soonest date that can be arranged, will be for two years, and the commencing salary will be on a scale up to £5,025 per annum plus USS/USDP benefits.

Closing date for applications, Wednesday, 25 February, 1981.

Senior Research Assistant in Hydrodynamics

Applications are invited for the vacancy of Senior Research Assistant in the Department of Oceanography. Applicants should have a degree in one of the physical, mathematical sciences and a Ph.D. in Oceanography, Sedimentology, fluid flow or a related discipline. The successful candidate will be required to undertake an investigation of the sedimentology and hydrography of a linear sandbank in the northern Bristol Channel, which is supported by the NERC and will involve both the collection of data at sea and numerical analysis and modelling.

The appointment will be for one year in the first instance, renewable for a further year and the salary will be £5,502 per annum plus USS/USDP benefits in the first year.

Closing date for applications, Friday 27 February 1981.

Further particulars and application forms (2 copies) for the above posts may be obtained from the Personnel Office, University College of Swansea, Singleton Park, Swansea, SA2 8PP, to which office they should be returned by the above dates.

University of St Andrews
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS
Applications are invited for a

TEMPORARY
LECTURESHIP IN
MICRO OR INDUSTRIAL
ECONOMICS

Available from September/October 1981. Salary at £5,502-£11,575 per annum plus USS/USDP benefits. The initial appointment will be for one year, renewable for a further year. The salary will be £5,502 per annum plus USS/USDP benefits in the first year. Closing date for applications, Friday 27 February 1981.

Loughborough University of Technology

UNIVERSITY REGISTRAR

The University hopes shortly to appoint a successor to its Registrar, Mr Frank Roberts, who will retire in September 1981. Applications for the post are therefore invited from suitably qualified persons with considerable administrative experience in universities, or more generally in higher education, local or national government, industry or commerce.

The Vice-Chancellor is by Charter the principal academic and administrative officer of the University. Under him the Registrar is responsible for the general supervision, co-ordination and management of the University's administrative services in its academic, financial, estates management and residential and catering areas.

Salary will be by negotiation in the Administrative Grade IV (professional equivalent) range subject to minimum of £14,275 per annum (under review). Application forms and further details are available from Paul Johnson, Establishment Officer, ref. 91/2AD.

Loughborough Leicestershire

University of East Anglia

LECTURER IN ACCOUNTANCY AND FINANCE

Applications are invited for two newly established posts of Lecturer in Accounting and Finance. The successful candidates will be expected to teach and supervise students in the areas of accounting and finance, and to contribute to the University's research and development in these areas. The successful candidates will be expected to teach and supervise students in the areas of accounting and finance, and to contribute to the University's research and development in these areas.

Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ, by Friday 27 February 1981.

University of Hull

M.A. IN CRIMINOLOGY PART-TIME OR FULL-TIME

Applications are invited for the M.A. in Criminology, which is a two-year part-time or full-time course. The successful candidate will be expected to teach and supervise students in the areas of criminology, and to contribute to the University's research and development in these areas.

Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Hull, Hull HU6 7RX, by Friday 27 February 1981.

University of St Andrews
CHAPLAIN

Applications are invited for the post of Chaplain to the University. The successful candidate will be expected to provide spiritual support and guidance to the University community, and to contribute to the University's research and development in these areas.

Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of St Andrews, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9JL, by Friday 27 February 1981.

UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX

CHAIR IN MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

A Professional vacancy exists in the Department, as a consequence of the retirement of Professor J. G. Smith. The successful candidate will have a first class honours degree in mechanical engineering, and will have a proven research record and will be expected to continue to provide leadership in the broad area of mechanical engineering.

The successful candidate will be expected to teach and supervise students in the areas of mechanical engineering, and to contribute to the University's research and development in these areas.

Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QJ, by Friday 27 February 1981.

University of Glasgow

LECTURER IN COMPUTING SCIENCE

Applications are invited for a Lecturer in Computing Science. The successful candidate will be expected to teach and supervise students in the areas of computing science, and to contribute to the University's research and development in these areas.

Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G3 7LA, by Friday 27 February 1981.

University of Leeds

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER STUDIES

Applications are invited for a post of Lecturer in the Department of Computer Studies.

Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Leeds, Leeds LS2 9JT, by Friday 27 February 1981.

University of London

King's College RESEARCH FELLOW

Applications are invited for the post of Research Fellow in the Department of Economics. The successful candidate will be expected to teach and supervise students in the areas of economics, and to contribute to the University's research and development in these areas.

Applications should be sent to the Registrar, King's College, London WC2R 2LS, by Friday 27 February 1981.

University of Southampton

CHAIR OF ARCHAEOLOGY

Applications are invited for the post of Chair of Archaeology. The successful candidate will be expected to teach and supervise students in the areas of archaeology, and to contribute to the University's research and development in these areas.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

DEPARTMENT OF ANATOMY

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in Artificial Intelligence. The successful candidate will be expected to teach and supervise students in the areas of artificial intelligence, and to contribute to the University's research and development in these areas.

Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB2 3RQ, by Friday 27 February 1981.

The University of Sussex

LECTURER IN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Applications are invited for a Lecturer in Artificial Intelligence. The successful candidate will be expected to teach and supervise students in the areas of artificial intelligence, and to contribute to the University's research and development in these areas.

Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9QJ, by Friday 27 February 1981.

The University of Sheffield

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGICAL STUDIES

Applications are invited for the post of Research Assistant in the Department of Sociological Studies.

Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Sheffield, Sheffield S10 2TN, by Friday 27 February 1981.

Bedales School, Petersfield, Hampshire

The Governors invite applications for the post of

HEAD

which will become vacant from 1st September, 1981, following the resignation of Mr. P. N. N. Although it is hoped that the successful applicant will be able to take office on the 1st September the Governors will also consider candidates who would be able to take up the appointment at a later date.

Current commitments based on scale for Bedales Group 14 Head. Further details available from the Clerk to the Governors, Bedales School, Petersfield, Hampshire GU32 9DD (Tel. 0730 3286) to whom applications should be sent by 21st February, 1981.

University of Cambridge

ASSISTANT LECTURESHIP IN ECONOMICS

Economist with some experience of applied economics, and a first class honours degree in economics, and will be expected to teach and supervise students in the areas of economics, and to contribute to the University's research and development in these areas.

Applications should be sent to the Registrar, University of Cambridge, Cambridge CB2 3RQ, by Friday 27 February 1981.

University of Sussex

CHAIR OF ECONOMICS

Applications are invited for the post of Chair of Economics. The successful candidate will be expected to teach and supervise students in the areas of economics, and to contribute to the University's research and development in these areas.

University of London

ROYAL POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL SCHOOL

DEPUTY SECRETARY

Applications are invited from honours graduates with experience in administration for the post of Deputy Secretary. Besides deputising for the Secretary as necessary, the main duties include the servicing of the Academic Board and its sub-committees, responsibility for the School's Registry, and generally assisting the Secretary with the academic affairs of the School.

Salary on Grade III for academic-related Administrative Staff, i.e. £11,165 to £13,980 a year (under review) plus 1987 a year, London Allowance, Superannuation under Universities Superannuation Scheme.

Applicants are advised to obtain further particulars from the Secretary, Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Hammersmith Hospital, DuCane Road, London W12 0HS (Tel. 01-743 2035 ext. 352) to whom applications (six copies) should be sent naming three professional referees to arrive not later than Friday, 20 February, 1981.

Queen Mary College

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

AERONAUTICAL ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

Applications are invited for the post of Research Assistant in the Department of Aeronautical Engineering. The successful candidate will be expected to teach and supervise students in the areas of aeronautical engineering, and to contribute to the University's research and development in these areas.

Applications should be sent to the Registrar, Queen Mary College, London E1 4NS, by Friday 27 February 1981.

QUEEN ELIZABETH COLLEGE

(University of London)

LECTURER IN PHYSIOLOGY

Applications are invited for this Lectureship in the Department of Physiology, Queen Elizabeth College, University of London. The successful candidate will be expected to teach and supervise students in the areas of physiology, and to contribute to the University's research and development in these areas.

Applications should be sent to the Registrar, Queen Elizabeth College, University of London, London W8 7AH, by Friday 27 February 1981.

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مكتبة من الاصل

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

David Hewson

Trustee Savings Banks in a hurry

Long ago the sort of Dutch auction now developing for United Dominions Trust would have looked decidedly touch with reality.

Severely and heavily dependent on not borrowings to finance the hire-purchase business, almost anyone bold enough to take on UDT, with its immediate touch with reality.

Seen as a fairly godmother, not by the group's two main institutional investors Eagle Star and the Prudential, who been looking for a way of realizing 52 per cent stake.

Weeks' turn of events, as the Trustee Banks were forced into bidding for whole of UDT instead of just taking three quarters of the instalment credit as originally envisaged last August.

Now brought them into open conflict with Lloyd's and Scottish with the remote possibility that another clearing bank will enter the fray.

At the time being the TSBs are clearly not that with the support of the UDT and the two institutions they will be the day, particularly as under their UDT's identity will be retained intact and with their limited experience in the hire-purchase field the chances of success, more likely if UDT were named into L & S, are lessened.

Whether L & S will be willing to raise assets enough to attract the backing of the board is also doubtful. Certainly, the bank has taken the view that UDT's non-purchase business is not worth the time and asset value placed on it last year although there is a view that the group is worth more dead than

live. L & S one of the crucial considerations will be just what value it, and more importantly its two banking shareholders, Bank of Scotland and Lloyds, put on having an important slice of the hire-purchase market given the oligopolistic nature of the British banking industry.

For the TSBs the full bid it embarked on last week raises important questions about development, raising fears that it may be ending before it can walk. Since the Faze report in 1973, the TSBs have been steadily pulling themselves into the third force in British banking, and, to be fair, with some success.

The key part of this transition has always been the replacement of its Treasury deposits with the Fund for the Banks Savings into more commercial—and vitally risky—deposits. The UDT move is a crucial move in this direction raising at a fall swoop its share of the personal market.

Yet it is now being forced into corners where it, even on its own admission, has no expertise and where even the clearing banks have been wary of trading. Admittedly it has said it will sell off the UDT's operations and the Treasury Bank of England have given their blessing to the move but the danger exists that TSBs are being forced to bite off more than they can chew.

Indeed last August the TSBs made some use of the fact that with UDT retaining 5 per cent stake in the instalment credit business they could lean on its skills in the tricky world of consumer hire purchase.

All the same the merits of the original plan still hold, namely that the TSBs could finance UDT's lending portfolio from its multiple fixed rate deposits—even more so now that interest rates are falling. The rub that the TSBs cannot choose their own

However this fairy-tale ending has obscured—or allowed everyone to conveniently forget—the issues of principle behind the tangled tale of dawn raids, strategic nominee shareholdings and a bidder hiding behind a Hongkong company.

The first twist to the tale was the accumulation of a 22.5 per cent shareholding in Renwick by six nominee companies. Behind the nominee companies lay the Uto Bank of Zurich, holding the shares for six "unrelated" clients all with roughly equal shares. The Takeover Panel's view was that there was no evidence they were acting together.

The Uto shares were bought through A. J. Bekhor who also turned out shortly after to be acting for Kangra International, the Hongkong company which through a raid and a series of market purchases soon had nearly 30 per cent of Renwick.

The Takeover Panel was assured that Kangra and Uto, whose combined holdings were over 50 per cent, were not acting in concert. However, the identities of the ultimate beneficiaries remained unknown.

After repeated attempts, Renwick finally merged Kangra for the first time. During the course of that meeting Renwick was told that Uto's clients had accepted a proposed 55p a share bid from Kangra. Control of Renwick was in Kangra's hands and there was nothing anyone could do about it even if they had wanted to.

Of course the price finally paid for Renwick seems a good one but the way in which control was acquired leaves much to be desired. The Takeover Panel, furthermore, faced with these nominee shareholdings seems to have been less than effective.

True, the Panel seems to have been satisfied with the assurances that the nominees and Kangra were not acting in concert, but the fact that Renwick was never in a position to mount a defence until it was too late, and that other Renwick shareholders are unclear to this day about the exact circumstances in which their company was taken over, is hardly a satisfactory state of affairs.

Investing in oil ... and avoiding some risks

Here at last ... the oil and gas fund for widows and orphans. At least that seems to be a view of Guinness Mahon, the merchant bank handling the offer for sale of shares in Oil and Gas Production, a Guernsey-based dollar-denominated investment vehicle.

The new company will use the cash raised, £3.7m initially, to invest in onshore drilling projects in the United States. But unlike so many of its predecessors, OGP will only buy into fields with sound production records and assuming no disasters—a cast iron stream of revenues.

Hence investors can take what ought to be, at least, an inflation-proof stake in energy without exposing themselves to the huge downside risk inherent in pure exploration ventures.

The new company has already paid out \$11.2m to purchase a working interest in one field partly to satisfy Stock Exchange listing requirements which disallow all-cash companies.

And shareholders successful in application for stock can presumably look forward to a run of cash calls as OGP finds further suitable opportunities.

Expectations must be that oil and gas prices will at least keep pace with inflation and probably outpace it, particularly in the case of gas if the United States authorities decide to de-regulate soon. But of course shareholders have to put their faith in the OGP team's ability to buy working interests at the right price in what is a very competitive auction.

With 72 per cent of the issue already promised mainly to clients of Guinness Mahon and brokers James Capel there could be a scramble for the little stock remaining, while the stage is likely to be set for a takeover of the offer which is for partly paid shares.

But given the current fashion it is hard to imagine that more traditional investors will not be confronted with similar opportunities if this one succeeds.

On Wednesday one of the most blatant restrictive practices in British business will be tested and found wanting.

Whatever the result of a meeting of the Association of British Travel Agents (Abta) appeals committee on that day, it seems that Abta cannot win.

If the committee decides in favour of its own powerful retail agents committee, Mr Gordon McNally, chairman of Britain's third largest travel agency company, Exchange Travel, promises to take legal action against the trade organization.

And if the appeals committee supports the flamboyant Mr McNally, most High Street travel agents will see the decision as a further diminution of their favoured role in selling the country's package holidays.

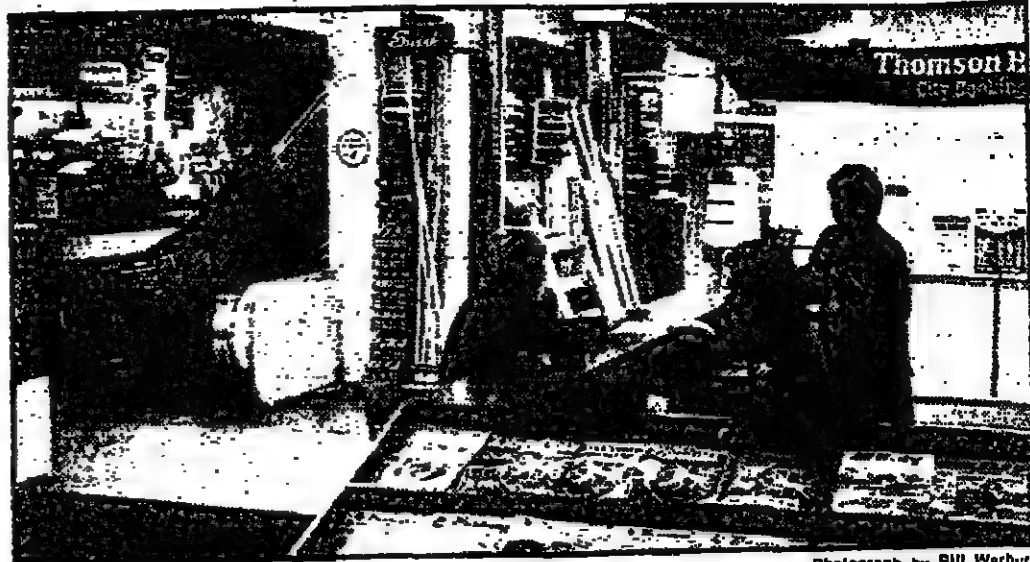
What is at stake, if Mr McNally loses and pursues his case in the courts, is the legality of Stabilizer, the restrictive practice agreement entered into by Abta, the major tour operators, and the Government 16 years ago.

No one denies that Stabilizer is a restrictive practice. It stipulates that the holidays of British members—mainly of British tour firms and many of the minor ones—may only be sold at the retail level through Abta agents.

In return, Abta undertakes to police a series of consumer protection measures from bonding schemes to guaranteed standard staff levels. In 1965, the era of unfinished Costa Brava hotels and short-lived tour operators, such guarantees were welcome. Whether they remain important to the public today is a moot point and one which the Office of Fair Trading has already decided to test against Abta in the Restrictive Practices Court, probably next year.

The P & O proposal goes to the very heart of the retail travel agent's nightmare: the extension of travel sales facilities into retail establishments, be they supermarkets or private job agencies.

Battle of the travel shops



The Exchange travel shop in Debenhams, Harrow: the company intends to have 70 such shops open in the stores chain by June.

The problem of Exchange Travel is likely to prove much more pressing. The company has opened 30 travel offices in Debenhams stores around the country since last autumn and is to extend the chain to 70, in a £2.75m programme to be completed by next June.

Exchange applied to Abta for registration of 13 of the stores.

Unfortunately for Exchange, its applications went in at about the same time as Abta had to reach a decision on another controversial issue. P & O had applied for approval of a scheme to run travel offices from the premises of Radio Rental television hire shops.

The P & O proposal goes to the very heart of the retail travel agent's nightmare: the extension of travel sales facilities into retail establishments, be they supermarkets or private job agencies.

Abta's membership committee turned down both Exchange and P & O, though on different grounds. P & O was told that its scheme infringed Abta's restrictions on mixed business premises.

Mr McNally of Exchange Travel says that he has never been given a reason for refusal but understands from reports in the trade press that the membership committee disliked the layout of his offices.

Travel departments in retail stores are not new, but Abta has always insisted that they should operate separately from the store's other retailing sections and look as much like a traditional High Street travel agency as possible.

Exchange's Debenhams ventures involve counters with sales staff behind them, similar to the arrangement in traditional retail stores. But this element of separation was

apparently not enough for the retail agents on the membership committee.

The gap between what Exchange wants on lay-out and what the retail agents would be prepared to accept is probably small but clouded by the scope of Mr McNally's plans.

The issue has divided Abta staff from sectors of the retail membership, with some staff believing that the association has taken on a battle it cannot win.

P & O submitted its application only after preliminary discussions with Abta full-time officials which led it to believe its scheme would be approved. The P & O bid has not yet been rejected outright. It is still bouncing between the membership committee and the retail agents committee which apparently wants the membership committee to

If a final decision is not reached by the end of February, the company is expected to take legal measures to force a final decision from Abta. And if that decision is no, P & O, like Exchange, will go down the appeal path.

Mr McNally, is confident that the appeals tribunal will back him. Its composition would seem to be in his favour, unlike the membership and retail agents committees, it is not dominated by retail agents.

"I just believe that it is wrong that these sorts of decision should be judged by your competitors," he said. "There is no question whatsoever that with this sort of appeals procedure we will be given the right to continue business once you get away from the nitty gritty of being judged by your peers."

Should he be proved wrong, the 30 travel shops now operating in Debenhams would lose the right to sell Abta holidays, even those run by Exchange's own package tour operation. Given Exchange's outlay on the Debenhams expansion, Mr McNally's threat of legal action is not even within the industry as an idle gesture.

The argument over Exchange and P & O is just the tip of an iceberg of travel agency expansion into new and unconventional areas.

W. H. Smith is looking at extending its travel facilities in retail shops, Thomas Cook is to test supermarket locations, and other experiments from commissioning a new sharing the use of High Street premises are on the way.

How far the trend for increased competitiveness will go is a question few would attempt to answer. What does seem clear is that the attempt of the retail trade to block such efforts is likely to be keenly contested by those who fall victim to it.

Growing strength of South Africa's black trade unions

Johannesburg

The labour guidelines issued recently by the South African Chamber of Industries (FCI) are the first explicit recognition by a major business organization of the changing balance of power in the country's factories. They represent a clear victory for the black trade unionism among blacks and pose a threat to the monopoly that white unions have hitherto enjoyed in negotiating black (as well as white) wages.

The chamber guidelines also signal a growing impatience among employers with the Government's fumbling of the new labour dispensation introduced eighteen months ago in the wake of the Wiehahn report on industrial relations.

The most important demand of the recommendations made by the FCI to affiliated companies is that they should stop trying to cold-shoulder the more militant sections of the black union movements. Behind its change of attitude is the recognition that these unions have been waging in the country's factories.

Though the post-Wiehahn system gave black unions the right to seek official registration and demand recognition, many were reluctant to do so because of the conditions and controls attached. The effectiveness of a union, they argued, depended not on whether some official in Pretoria had given it a stamp of approval, but on the strength of its shop-floor support.

With the backing of the authorities and of every business organization, suspicious employers tried to freeze these "independent" unions out of their factories. In their place

they sought to promote "parallel" unions for blacks run by white trade unions which were already registered and eager to keep black worker organizations docile.

Where parallel unions did not exist, employers still refused to deal with independent unregistered black unions, telling their black employees to channel their demands through factory liaison committees (half of whose membership may by law be appointed by management).

Acrimonious disputes over independent unregistered unions' demands for recognition by employers were at the root of much of South Africa's industrial unrest last year. The usual pattern was for workers to go on strike after alleged victimization by management of shop stewards or other union leaders. Similar accusations have been made by unions during some of the dozen strikes that have occurred already in 1981.

Independent unions also suspect that some company managements may have been behind the detention without trial of 20 or more union officials last year.

Despite such difficulties the independent unions attracted more and more worker support. More often than not, companies found that their efforts to channel blacks into parallel unions simply damned the cause of the workers' eyes. Even the ministry of manpower utilization, Mr Faure Botha, began to caution employers against trying to force their employees into "sweetheart" unions, though he still urged them not to have anything to do with unregistered black unions.

Ten years ago it would have

been easy for companies to destroy the independent black unions, simply by firing all workers who were members and hiring replacements from the country's huge pool of black unemployed. But the severe shortage of skilled white manpower is forcing employers to train blacks for more senior jobs and this small supply of skilled blacks has now acquired a considerable bargaining strength. This was conclusively proved during the two great watershed strikes at Ford and Volkswagen in the Eastern Cape last year.

The FCI has now publicly recognized the utility of trying to tell black workers which unions are acceptable and which are not. The choice must be left to them, even if they exercise it in favour of independent unregistered unions. It is of the utmost importance, the FCI says, for employers not to refuse to talk to emerging unions. It was also essential for companies to be democratic and neither favour nor hamper particular unions.

The chamber adds that it is aware of the risks attached to recognizing unions outside the industrial relations structure laid down by the government, but says that this is necessary to create a spirit of "trust and goodwill".

The chief implication of what the FCI is saying—and one which opens the way to a clash between Pretoria and the business sector—is that Mr Botha's promised changes to the union registration system succeed in

persuading all black unions to register—is that company managements should now regard the degree of shop-floor support, rather than official registration, as the main test of a union's acceptability.

In reversing its earlier stand on this issue, the chamber is bringing its policy more into line with the EEC code of fair labour practice for European companies in South Africa (some of whom have been among the companies accused of victimizing independent unions). Mr Bill Voss, the prime mover of the code—then labour attaché at the British embassy in Pretoria—was always at pains to stress that its first requirement was its most important: that workers should be allowed a free choice in the type of organization to speak for them.

Union reaction to the FCI's guidelines has been cautious. Mr Henry Chipaya, a prominent black union official, said that they were a "major step", but he wanted to know whether they would be "translated into meaningful and positive action". In the past, he said, guidelines had often not left companies drawing blood.

If employers do follow them, the guidelines could ultimately lead to a reexamination of the established collective bargaining system in which employers and white unions set wages and working conditions on an industry-wide basis through the industrial councils covering different sectors.

Provided that they register, black unions can now obtain seats on the councils, but they argue that they need too centralized and bureaucratic to handle shop-floor problems. They want a strong shop steward system built up instead.

The chamber professes its continuing faith in the industrial council system, but it has also emphasized the need to devise a collective bargaining system in conjunction with the emerging black unions, which will push for major modifications.

The real casualty of the FCI guidelines is likely to be the established union movement, including unions affiliated to the trade union council of South Africa (TUCA). Their related attempts to enrol blacks and so maintain their representative status on the shop floor have met with cynicism and derision.

The failure of many of the parallel unions they have been trying to set up is undoubtedly an important factor in prompting the FCI to urge its members to talk to the independent unions directly instead, so bypassing the white intermediaries.

Already, seven out of every ten workers in South Africa are black. That proportion will increase and they will gain greater skills. Inevitably, realistic employers will increasingly seek accommodation with them rather than with the old white unions and their diminishing representativeness.

John Kane-Berman

Bitterness in Belgium's centre

"Quality, productivity and social peace equal unemployment."

The placards outside Leyland's Belgian assembly plant at Seneffe fail to capture the bitterness felt among the 2,200 workers who will be dismissed at the end of March when Leyland ends its manufacturing operation in Belgium.

For them the closure represents a betrayal. In the 17-year history of the plant, productivity has risen steadily and there has never been a strike. Most of those being dismissed will be hard pressed to find another job in Belgium, the highest unemployment rate of any country in the EEC.

Around Seneffe, according to Mr Willy Cles, the economic minister, about 30 per cent of the working population will now be without work.

For the Belgian Government the closure means that another problem region has been added to the depressed areas of Verviers, Liège and Charleroi in Wallonia, the French-speaking southern part of the country.

The village of Seneffe is about 35 kilometres south of Brussels. Surrounded by heavy, clayey pasture land, with an overgrown church at its centre and a new estate of flat-roofed "semis" to the south, it looks rather more prosperous than the usual Belgian village.

The reason for this prosperity is the Leyland factory—lies a kilometre or so away on the south side of the Brussels-Charleroi canal. It is a functional concrete and metal structure, typical of the factories built in the boom years of the 1950s and 1960s when Belgium was a mecca for foreign investors and appeared to be successfully transforming its industrial base away from iron, steel and coal situated just a few kilometres to the

Industry in Europe

Seneffe, Belgium

south in the valleys of the Meuse and the Sambre.

Seneffe was typical of the industrial development of the region. In the 1950s, the foreign investor, in this case, was the old British Motor Corporation, attracted by government help, the availability of a well educated, disciplined and fairly cheap workforce and excellent communications to establish a foothold in the EEC of the Six.

The expectation was that the new industries would put down roots. But in the "centre" of Belgium, the triangular area stretching southwards from the affluent suburbs of Brussels to the northern border of the Liège-Charleroi industrial axis, this has not always been the case.

Seneffe is not the only example of a postwar industry in trouble. At Tubize, about 20 kilometres to the north, the Fabela synthetic fibres plant is in the hands of the receiver. Five workers at the plant have been on hunger strike for more than a fortnight and last week some of their colleagues blocked the main Brussels to Paris railway line for a day to underline their demands that the plant should be rescued.

Fabela-Tubize was once part of the Akzo group. Since the 1970s it has been struggling to survive in the face of continually deteriorating market conditions, an inadequate cash flow and insufficient funds for investment.

Seneffe and Fabela-Tubize

are the large-scale examples of a pattern that prevails throughout the central area of Belgium. On the outskirts of the old industrial areas, the old white Brabant empty factories and warehouses bear witness to the withdrawal of foreign investment from the country and the decline of the traditional textile, engineering and paper making industries.

With the recession continuing, Belgium has learnt the hard way that foreign investment is vulnerable. New companies have been discouraged from coming to Belgium as labour costs have risen since the early 1970s to be the highest in the European Community and labour laws have made it difficult to shed any part of a workforce when economic conditions deteriorate.

The drying up of foreign investment has applied in the Flemish speaking north of the country as well as the French-speaking south. But in Wallonia the problem is more serious, because it has added to the difficulties arising from the gradual decay of the old zone of heavy industry between Charleroi and Liège.

At Seneffe, the unions and workforce hold British Leyland responsible for their predicament. They argue that the plant could have survived with higher investment and a new model to replace the Mini and Allegro.

But their bitter experience has been repeated on a smaller scale elsewhere in the centre of Belgium. It is only now that the area, which straddles the provinces of Wallonian Brabant and Hainaut and hence has no natural administrative centre, is generating a regional consciousness of its own.

The tragedy is that this growing awareness may be too late to prevent the "centre" from becoming an economic wasteland.

Peter Norman

Business Diary profile: George Mathewson and the SDA

As a weapon to win industry and investment for Scotland, the Scottish Development Agency has lately looked somewhat blunted. The committee of Scottish MPs considering inward investment even suggested that the agency had failed to contribute a single job to Scotland—a charge more easily made than proved.

Certainly the recession and the change of Government have adversely affected the agency's confidence in its two important and controversial functions—direct investment in industry and projecting Scotland overseas.

With morale down and uncertainty hanging over a new man as chief executive, Dr George Mathewson takes over today at a critical point in the SDA's history.

He sees the job as the challenge it clearly is. He will head an organization with a remit much broader than that of the National Enterprise Board—encompassing promotion of industry in Scotland, factory building, large and small-scale risk investment and clearing the wastelands left by old industry.

It was this range of activity, and the possibility of cross-disciplinary work that helped to attract Mathewson. "Of course, that makes for its own management problems."

Mathewson is 40, a Scot with a firm faith that Scotland can be rejuvenated into a formidable industrial force. His career so far has been impeccable and in many respects tailored to the job. He joins the agency Finance Corporation and Commercial Finance Corporation, Britain's largest source of venture capital and long-term finance for small and medium-sized companies.

Mathewson was a director and assistant general manager in ICPC looking after a third or so of the corporation's area offices, covering about 1,000 companies. He was involved in business development and the various facets of investment in private companies.

Before that he spent five years in the United States, where he managed research and development projects in



It's not what you've got, but what you do with it: George Mathewson, chairman from today of the Scottish Development Agency.

professional businessman, who is also a scientist able to judge the risks in high technology projects.

Robertson was the founder chief executive of the SDA. He announced he would not be seeking reappointment because he wished to return to private industry. He said at the time that if he left it another five years he would be too old. He is a non-executive director of Scottish and Newcastle but no firm plans for his future have been announced.

Colleagues of Mathewson described him as "addicted to work". One said: "Anyone appointed to such a high position at his age, in an organization devoted to risk ventures has to be good."

But will Mathewson handle the political shifts which now bedevil the agency's work? It is probably true that the SDA now takes on greater risk in its so-called venture capital projects than many banks and private investment institutions in Scotland. Since the losses in the Stonefield truck debacle the agency has confined itself to well-secured investments.

The Scottish Office obliged the SDA to call in the Receiver to Stonefield. This was necessary, the Scottish Office argued, for the simple reason that although the truck, designed for rough terrain, might be a superb concept it could not survive the roughest terrain of all—a market place without orders. Mathewson is not without experience in dealing with politicians and civil servants. Those with whom he was concerned were American, "but you would be surprised how many of the rules are the same."

He very nearly joined the British Civil Service before going to the ICSC and with that body he got to know the Department of Industry well.

"That side of things is not completely new to me. I am not saying it is going to be difficult, but I am aware of how difficult it can be."

Certainly, the SDA could hardly have

found a closer blend of technical, investment and management expertise in one person to restore its confidence and to reestablish it in the role of providing venture capital to men with ideas, empty pockets and negligible security.

Investment takes up barely 3 per cent of the agency's total budget and Mathewson believes the press concentrates too much on the bad news. "A lot of excellent and successful work is done which does not have enough publicity," he says.

He arrives at the agency just ahead of a White Paper expected in a couple of weeks which, it is hoped, will end the friction between the SDA and the Scottish Economic Planning Department. It is thought that a new joint body will coordinate the industrial promotion role of the two organizations with a senior civil servant from the planning department in control but housed in the SDA building with agency staff forming the new link.

Mathewson will be starting his new job with much of this new connexion but with other recently appointed civil servants—Dr Gavin McCrone as head of the planning department and James Scott, who directs the department's operation in Glasgow. He hopes there will be some pay-off this year from the growing attention shown recently by overseas industrialists in the electronics and technology areas. Importing technology could allow Scotland to "leapfrog" the rest of the world and it could then add its own experience and ability and develop from there.

But was it simply a question of shedding old industry and investing in high technology? "Not anything like as straightforward as that," he says. A lot of traditional industries had plenty of steam left in them.

Stimmed down, more efficient and geared to the markets he expects to see some phoenixes rising from their ashes.

Ronald Faux

GRA Property Trust to make final payment

By Our Financial Staff
GRA Property Trust, the greyhound racing and property group, has said it is now in a position to pay the final 15p in the pound to creditors.

This should mark the end of the Scheme of Arrangement entered into in 1976 as an alternative to liquidation. But Mr Jack Aaronson, GRA chairman brought in to administer the scheme, says that the liability under guarantees given by the company in respect of certain Kay Bevan contingent creditors had not yet been determined and no amount has been admitted in respect of these external debts.

"The terms of the Scheme of Arrangement require the company to continue until satisfactory arrangements have been made with these creditors so that their claims can either be admitted and paid or withdrawn," he said.

This final payment of £445,662 is the last of total external admitted debts of around £2.97m.

The payment was made on pre-tax profits for the year to the end of last October down from just over £1m to £940,000 on a turnover up from £10.8m to £11.9m.

Mr Aaronson said that, despite a good first half, the inevitable impact of the deepening recession resulted in reduced profits.

Major shareholder of GRA is the ICI Pension Fund which holds £563,000 of loan stock convertible into ordinary shares. Minority shareholders have been concerned that on conversion the fund would be able to acquire a major stake in the group fairly cheaply.

There were moves to buy the stake but those were finally thwarted last August when the pension fund, through its pension fund securities, gave notice that it will take up the option to convert the loan notes into 11.26 million ordinary shares giving them a 26.3 per cent stake. The shares were picked up at 20p.

Meanwhile, GRA shares, traded in the stock market under the special rule 163 (2), were active last week. The price opened at 15p, dropped to 13p and ended the week at 14p.

Grinshawe down in half year

Over the half year to October 31, Grinshawe Holdings' turnover rose from £2.2m to £2.8m but profit on trading shrank from £115,000 to £36,000. This is before charging interest of £111,000 against £33,000.

Mr Thomas Kenny, chairman, says that as yet there is little sign of any positive improvement. "We have taken the

usual steps to reduce the value of working capital. Subsidiary company management has been reinforced at points where weaknesses were beginning to show."

Briefly

Robertson Foods: The directors of Robertson Foods have considered the offer for Robertson announced by Amica Group on January 28, 1981. Following discussions with their financial advisers, Hill Samuel & Co, the directors have decided that the offer is not in the best interests of the shareholders and that the offer should be rejected.

Brent Chemicals: Shareholders approved proposed acquisition of major part of chemicals division of Sulfur Chemical Company. Brent have warned the 1980 results, due next month, will show pre-tax profits "slightly below" the previous year.

R. Paradise: Proposed rights issue on basis of 11-for-5 at 45p per share to raise about £1.45m after expenses. Purpose of issue is to satisfy the £775,000 cost of acquiring new companies and to cut bank borrowings. For the 12 months to April 30 next, Paradise forecasts that consolidated pre-tax profits of the enlarged group will be not less than £215,000.

Higher offer for Colmore: Nesco Investments have increased their offer for Colmore Investments to 33p cash per share. This follows the purchase of a further 64,380 ordinary shares in Colmore (about 1.62 per cent) at 33p each, bringing Nesco's holding to 1.42 million shares (25.63 per cent) and, with acceptance of the offer, a total of about 50.03 per cent.

Vectis Stone: Mr Alfred Collins, chairman, says in his annual report that it would be unreasonable to expect profits in the current year to exceed last year's earnings of £815,000. However, every effort will be made to minimize the anticipated problems of 1981.

Ransome Hoffman Pollard: Chairman told the annual meeting that the year has not had as easy start and there has been a significant fall in UK demand during the first quarter, reflecting the severe effects of the de-stocking cycle. "We hope that the turning point may soon be reached and that the order position will begin to improve."

Burco Deaz: Mr Spencer Crookenden, chairman, says in his annual report that the recession shows no signs of easing. "Bank borrowings continue to be well within the facilities agreed by our bankers who have been most understanding and helpful in this difficult year for the company." Pre-tax profits for the year to last September fell from £1.17m to a loss of £1.1m.

API still finds it tough to make profit

Associated Paper Industries, the Cheshire-based group which reported a net £3.9m loss last year after substantial closures and a 33 per cent cut in the workforce, is still finding it difficult to make profits.

Mr Charles Rawlinson, chairman, tells shareholders in his annual report out today that current trading conditions are not good, but steps taken to eliminate fundamental problems put API in a position where it can benefit greatly from the upturn in demand when it comes.

"We are more competitive and a lot leaner than we were, there is more to do, but we are confident of the outcome even if in the short-term things remain difficult," he said.

API's results for the year to last September show trading profit on its continuing operations down from £2.4m to £2.1m. A near doubled interest charge and losses on closed operations of just over £1m brought the pre-tax profit down from £1.9m to £332,089.

However, full provision for all closure costs relating to The Vale Board Mills, Cooke & Nuttall and two overseas subsidiaries of £3.9m pushed the group into the red.

Joint liquidators announced for Rivington Reed

Joint liquidators of Rivington Reed, whose chairman, Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey, has a 28.3 per cent stake, have been announced as Mr Peter Fleisher, of accountants Thornton Baker, and Mr Frank Taylor, of Arthur Young McClelland Moores.

Rivington is the holding company of a textile group with 15 subsidiaries, many, but not all, of which have been in receivership since May last year.

Mr Fleisher said the appointments are subject of confirmation by the High Court and that they cannot commence work until the receiver has completed the disposal of those companies which could be sold.

In the last year for which audited accounts are available, to March, 1979, group turnover was £23m and there was a £1m loss.

At that time borrowings were put at £4.14m with creditors owed £6.77m. Net assets stood at £10.95m.

Lonrho results should be up sharply

Companies reporting this week include Lonrho, electronic components manufacturer Unitech, and the Prestige Group. Supermarkets group Hillards also releases figures.

Economic news starts off today with details of house prices and mortgage starts from the building societies and ends on Friday with the number of housing starts and completions in December from the Department of the Environment, along with figures on house renovations in the final quarter of 1980.

But the star spot is taken up by the United Kingdom official reserves for January, which the Treasury announces on Tuesday. That day also sees the Bank of England's figures for capital issues and redemptions. Thursday brings provisional figures of vehicle production in January, from the Department of Industry.

Hillards announces its interim figures to the end of October today. Analysts are expecting some improvement in margins on top of higher turnover from the series of store openings last year.

However, that improvement will show up more against the difficult second part of last year than the first period; so interim profits of between £1.3m and £1.7m are forecast now against £1.3m with full-year profits rising towards £3.2m against £2.2m pre-tax.

Food volume is thought to be good at Hillards, which has been able to improve its margins after losing ground last year. Non-food is a small portion of total turnover but the five big stores opened between March, 1979, and August, 1980, carry a larger share of non-food items than the older, smaller stores and therefore could be less profitable than expected, with the difficult economic climate cut.

ring spending on the non-food side.

The group has also revamped its non-food operation recently and there is concern in the City that the timing of that operation was unfortunate. However, dividend the first year is expected to rise benefiting from good cover and the expected better second half.

With not much lined up to provide a boost to next year.

This week

Analysts are taking a cautious long-term view of the shares.

Tuesday sees Prestige, the manufacturer of small household goods, releasing preliminary figures for 1980. Pre-tax profits are expected to be around £5m to £5.5m, against £3.86m the first year. But the feeling is that the final dividend will be maintained, as was the interim. American Home Products owns 74 per cent of the equity.

Prestige's most important profit-earner is the home market, which was hit by de-stocking earlier in the year but has a better Christmas season than expected. The group is projected to some extent from the decline in consumer spending because of its wide range of small products—some of the largest of its kitchen products are the successful slow electric and pressure cookers. As a result it is less prone to the recession now than some of the bigger groups, but equally will benefit less dramatically from any upturn.

Exports to Europe have been hit by the strengthening pound, which has trimmed margins, but the overseas manufacturing interests in Australia and South Africa have served as a buoyant markets and thought to be doing well, though the Euro-

pean side is catching the recession. Looking ahead, analysts are hoping for an indication from the company of whether the improvement before Christmas has lasted, but think that a slow-down in de-stocking will give the first half of this year a filip even if nothing else does.

Unitech also reports on Tuesday, with the first set of interim figures to include German electrical components distributor Enarechnik, acquired in March, 1980.

Including Enarechnik's contribution, analysts are looking for between £2.3m and £2.5m pre-tax for the first half, with the original company not showing much improvement on the previous interim figure of £2m. This is because the high

technology components distribution side has seen prices fall steeply and in the depressed economic climate has not been able to compensate with higher volume.

Lonrho's 1979-80 figures come out on Thursday. Forecast is expected to be £125m up to £136m against £76.5m with good results expected

from gold, platinum, sugar and hotel operations but poor performance from the United Kingdom cargo, engineering and manufacturing interests, including Dutton-Forsyth and Dunford & Elliot.

The figures will contain a full year of SUITS. Princess Properties International and the 29.5 per cent stake in House of Fraser, which is estimated to add around £9m to profits this year.

Exchange rates went against Lonrho last year, but commodity prices favoured it, and 1979's Christmas trade is said to have been good. At the time of the rights issue the group said it would maintain the previous final dividend payment on the increased capital.

TODAY Interims:—Dura Mill, Hillards, Regional Props, William Somerville & Son, and Vibroplant Bldgs.

Finals:—None announced.

TOMORROW Interims:—Cowan, De Groot, Gold Fields of South Africa, Steinberg Group and Unitech.

Finals:—English & New York Trust, Prestige Group and UC Investments.

WEDNESDAY Interims:—Amal Tin Mines of Nigeria, City of London Brewery & Investment Trust (interim results), and Bena Bods.

Finals:—Sterling Trust.

THURSDAY Interims:—None announced.

Finals:—Aronson Bros, Blundell-Pergamatz Bldgs and Lonrho.

FRIDAY Interims:—Armour Trust (amended), Second Alliance Trust, Sentrus, and Stoddard Bldgs.

Finals:—British American & General Trust, and Glasgow Stockholders Trust.

Catherine Gunn

Oil shares expected to leap after slow start

North Sea oil has been under scrutiny for the eighth running by the team at P & Co, who say that share movement in 1981 will fall three distinct time phases.

During the early part of year oil shares will perform relatively poorly, but the summer will bring the seasonal interest in the North Sea drilling results. "From third quarter onwards we see a really strong trend in share prices as the Opec count against the December price fixing, against a background of improving economic activity in the western world," Mr Fr Watts, Mr Clive Callow and Simon Wharmby say.

Among the majors, it is highlighted by where Beaufort Sea drilling activity will emphasize the air.

Brokers' views

Alaskan position, and International Thomson Organisation where the disposal of Tir Newspapers will focus attention on its oil and asset position. Tricentral, which is selling its overvalued discount estimated net worth, Woodside of Australia are a recommended.

Among the smaller independents, they recommend A Energy because of its sumo drilling programme offshore the Irish Republic, Associated Newspapers with its strong balance-sheet and Candec's "outstanding oil and gas assets and excellent management and suggest switch from Marine and Gass & Oil Area as cash flow from Buchan field will start.

Care Seabag has cast its vote over the leading Australian oil and through the analysts, Barry Ailing and Mr Paul Me point out that share prices many of the smaller exploration companies have become overheated there are some that remain attractive.

At home, Moore Govey looked at a much smaller sector, advertising agencies and believes that Geers Gro one of the two London-quoted agencies, is at an interesting stage.

Geers Gross, which has market capitalization of £4 compared with Saatchi & Saatchi's £14.4m, has boosted earnings a share from 2.9p to 7.1p in the last five years. It has its investment premises in its US operation which are well established while Saatchi is trying to move into that market.

Geers Gross is now ready to compete for accounts with budgets of up to £25m (£10.5m). The gaining of only one such account could dramatically increase profitability without the necessity of increased overheads," Mr K. L. G. Shepper says.

He also criticizes the American experience that reductions in advertising budgets during a economic crisis are a recipe for irrecoverable loss of market share.

Rosemary Unsworth

Why life in the toy world is not all fun and games

The Christmas of 1979 and 1980 were probably the unhappiest and the most troubled ever experienced by the UK toy industry. However, this date is October 15 in the retailer's diary. Volume sales over the period were down by seven per cent on total market sales of £700m. This included both United Kingdom exports and imports. Retailers delayed their buying until November and the downturn in consumer spending left both stores and manufacturers with excess

the final dividend will be passed with losses estimated at £7m. Recovery will not show through until the next financial year, but analysts think that its present low rating should be lifted once the full effects of reorganization are felt. The workforce was cut by a fifth from 7,500.

Mettoy, makers of "Corgi" toys, also a big exporter, fell into similar troubles. In the six months to September the group lost £2.1m against profits of £703,000, with sales falling off to £16.4m. The shares are just above the year's low at 18p and yield 14.6 per cent. After rationalization costs last year of £128,000, a further £400,000 is expected. The interim dividend was passed.

Although Berwick Timpo reported losses in the half year of £288,000 it is confidently looking to full-year profits of between £500,000 and £600,000. It maintained the interim gross dividend at the half-way stage and is expected to recommend an unchanged gross total of 8.5p for the year. But the shares at 54p, yielding 15.9 per cent on a p/e ratio of 2.14 on stated earnings, are perhaps not fully reflecting the group's potential.

Losses for the half year are not unusual in an industry where traditionally 90 per cent of profits are made in the second half of the year. This year the losses were due mainly to the cost of closing two loss-making subsidiaries. In 1979 the group saw profits of £1.5m on sales of £16.8m. Sales this year are expected to drop to £13m.

Cowan de Groot is also fairly well insulated from the worst troubles since toy sales account for only 24 per cent of total turnover. The profit contribution is slightly higher at 30 per cent, and the company has protected its toy market by importing 60 per cent of sales direct to the larger stores from the Far East.

Profits in the year to exports increased to £2.6m on sales up to £44.09m and "satisfactory" profits are expected in the interim results due tomorrow.

With the group's electrical and hardware division expanding, the shares perhaps understate its potential. At 54p, they yield 9.2 per cent on a stated p/e of 3.3.

The influx of imports from the US and Japan has been steadily rising since 1975 but it has yet to have its full impact on the toy market. It is for this reason that the extent of the recovery in the sector cannot be judged for another four or five years.

Margareta Pagano

Briefing

stocks, in some cases of up to six months. A very similar rate can be painted for last Christmas, although some manufacturers report that sales were better than expected."

The fall in consumer spending alone was enough to bite into sales, but coupled with the strength of sterling in 1979 and the effect of the increase in MLR on borrowings, groups which were particularly dependent on high levels of exports also suffered. Lesney, which in the first half to July, 1980, lost £6m and passed its interim dividend, reported a drop in volume sales of 17 per cent. Last year the group which during the "boom time" of the mid-1970s exported 75 per cent of its goods, particularly to West Germany, struggled to reduce borrowings from the peak of £144m, representing gearing of 137 per cent.

With the results for the year to January about to be drawn up, there is little doubt that

Many manufacturers have not had a better financial resources or felt there is the demand to create a host of tempting pilot producer ranges. The industry is alarmingly vulnerable to fashion, is affected by the rise and fall of the birth rate, has a lead time on new products of 18 months and is vulnerable to strong sterling and imports. It is a sector for the brave investor with faith in long-term recovery.

The recent news of Airfix's collapse into receivership with debts of £15m—while no surprise to the market—comes at a time when it was believed that the worst was over. It also follows too closely for comfort upon the fall last year of the Dunbee-Combe-Marx group, which suffered from its strategy of over-expansion in the US market. It is ironic that Airfix bought both the Meccano and Dinky toys companies from DCM but was unable to turn them back to profits. Observers looking at the sector agree that with the losses, closures and redundancies of the past year spilling over into 1980 manufacturers should be streamlining their operations and seeking strong markets for expansion.

The troubles, which began in the run-up period to Christmas, 1979, saw leading manufacturers like Lesney Products,

Few customers share the industry's worries.

Business appointments

Morgan Crucible names

two new directors

Mr D. A. M. Dunbar and Dr E. B. Farmer have become directors of Morgan Crucible.

Mr John Floyd is leaving Panmure Gordon & Company on May 1 to become a non-executive director of Lloyd Oil Participations. He remains an associate of Panmure Gordon.

Mr Donald Patience has become director and manager of Finance Corporation for Industry, a member of the Finance for Industry group.

Mr R. M. H. Heseltine is now director for corporate development of Croda International.

Mr J. Burnett-Stuart, who has been deputy chairman of Robert Fleming Holdings since 1975, is to succeed Mr W. B. Martin on his retirement as chairman and as a director of Robert Fleming & Co.

Mr D. G. Thomas will become deputy chairman of Robert Fleming Holdings.

Mr Geoffrey J. Redmond, formerly managing director of Seddon Atkinson Vehicles, has been made financial director and Dr Michael Bamer has joined the board as a non-executive director. Mr Bamer is an assistant director of Barclays Merchant Bank, the company's financial adviser.

Mr Douglas McKean has been reappointed by the Treasury to his post on the board of the Agricultural Mortgage Corporation.

Mr Paul S. J. Zatz has become company secretary of Clyde Petroleum.

Mr John A. Talbot has been made a partner of Spicer & Pegler. Mr Reginald J. Glisson and Mr Michael G. Crawford have retired as partners.

Mr David M. Thomson has been named a local director of Singer and Friedlander.

Lord Carrington on Britain's priorities in Europe

Wilhelm Haferkamp on external challenges to the Community

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ted to continue and demand for first-class office buildings in Singapore, Malaysia and Hongkong will continue to be high.

In Singapore, for example, rents for the best located office space surged by 67 per cent. The situation will be further fuelled by the lack of new office space coming on to the market this year. Only 26,000 sq metres of additional office space is scheduled for completion in 1981, and much of this is already committed, say the agents.

Over the next five years an average of 80,600 sq metres of office accommodation will be constructed.

Hongkong will be in for a quieter time and there are likely to be some short term corrections in certain areas of the market where speculation has pushed prices too far, such as office rents and commercial land values. Demand from international companies helped to boost rents by about 65 per cent last year, but the agents say that office rents at \$HK250 a square metre may have peaked.

Rents are expected to stabilize later this year as more office accommodation comes on to the market. In the next two years about 745,000 metres almost 800,000 sq ft) will be completed, equivalent to about one third of existing office space.

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experienced cook/housekeeper required for 5 bedroom house on sea. April to September, owners sometimes away, sometimes up to 8 guests. Some help with cleaning and housework available. Knowledge of

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S.W.I. Secretarys need assistants within new department buying and selling Commercial Property. P.A. should have good command of English, accurate typing and a little shorthand. Reasonably mature, will help with social side and enjoy a varied and stimulating life. £5,500 p.a. to start. Early review.

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